

# Beyond the Ballot Box:

The Real Impact of Post-Election Legislation  
on Higher Education

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# Housekeeping Details Before we begin

## **Please remain muted.**

Unless you are asking or answering questions.

## **Submit questions in the chat.**

The chat will be monitored and questions answered.

## **This meeting will be recorded.**

If you feel comfortable, please turn your camera on.





# Agenda



## Expert Speakers

Gain valuable perspectives from  
COHEAO's top leaders



## Interactive Q & A

At any time submit questions  
during the webinar in the chat



## Prizes

Your attendance is your entry for a  
chance to win a drawing for  
(4) \$25 Gift Card Giveaways



# Our Presenters



**Lori S. Hartung**

Regional Sales Executive for ECSI  
President, for COHEAO  
(Coalition of Higher Education)

**Karen Reddick**

NCM  
Legislative Chair, Board of Directors  
for COHEAO  
(Coalition of Higher Education)





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**Win one of FOUR (4) \$25 gift  
cards**

**You may be one of our lucky winners!!**

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# **PACWEST - In Person Conference**

**Empowering Professionals in  
Higher Education**

**May 14 - 16, 2025**

Mar Monte Hotel in  
beautiful Santa Barbara





**Thank you for attending!**



PacWest SFS Website



COHEAO Website



Western Student Financial Services Website





# Beyond the Ballot Box:

## The Real Impact of Post-Election Legislation on Higher Education

Lori Hartung, COHEAO President  
Karen Reddick, COHEAO Legislative Chair

December 5, 2024





# Legal Disclaimer

- The views and opinions expressed by the Presenter are those of the Presenter
- This information is not intended as legal advise and may not be used as legal advise. Legal advise must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case.
- Every effort has been made to ensure this information is up-to-date as of the publication
- This information is not intended to be a complete and exhaustive explanation of any laws or regulations, not should it be used to replace the advice of your campus legal counsel.



# Agenda

- Presidential Election
- State Elections
  - Senate
  - Noteworthy Congressional
- 119<sup>th</sup> Congress
- Proposed Cabinet Member
- Department of Education
- CFPB
- State Activity

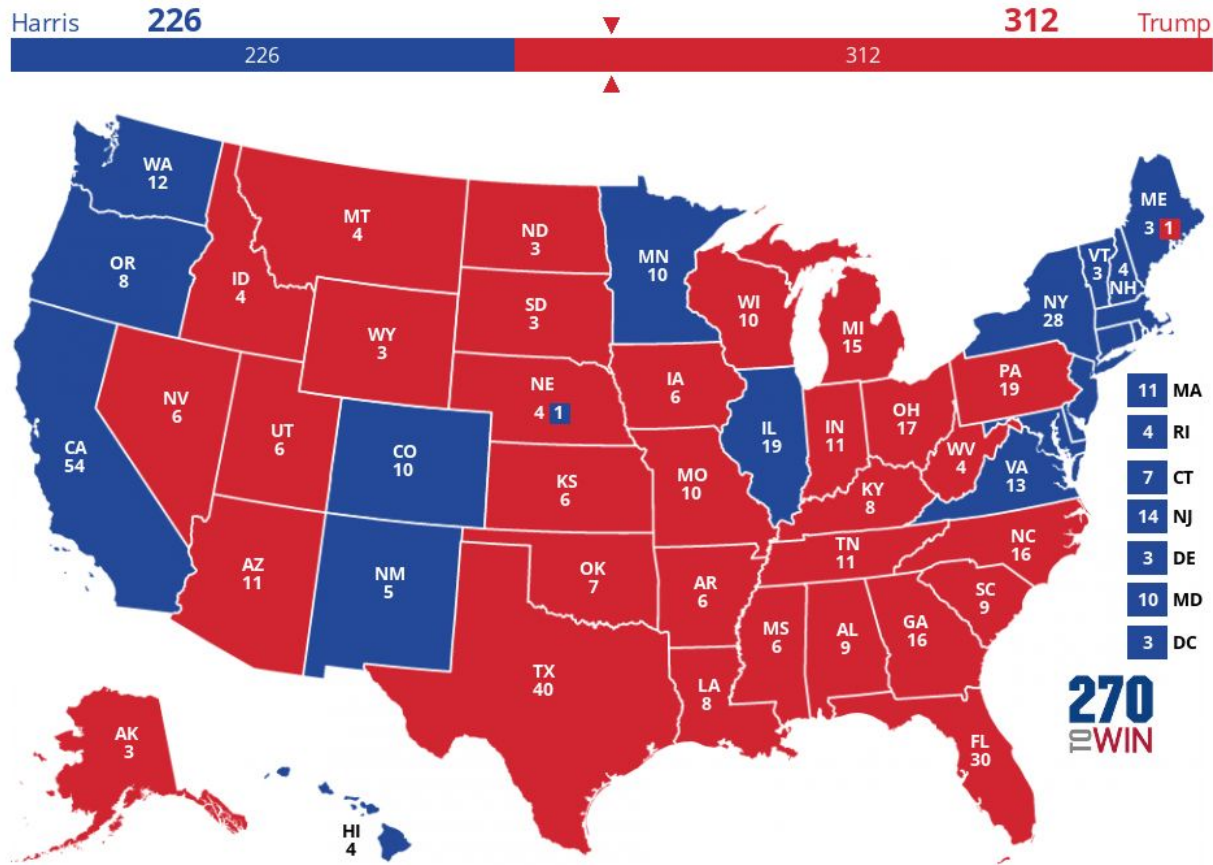


# Presidential Election

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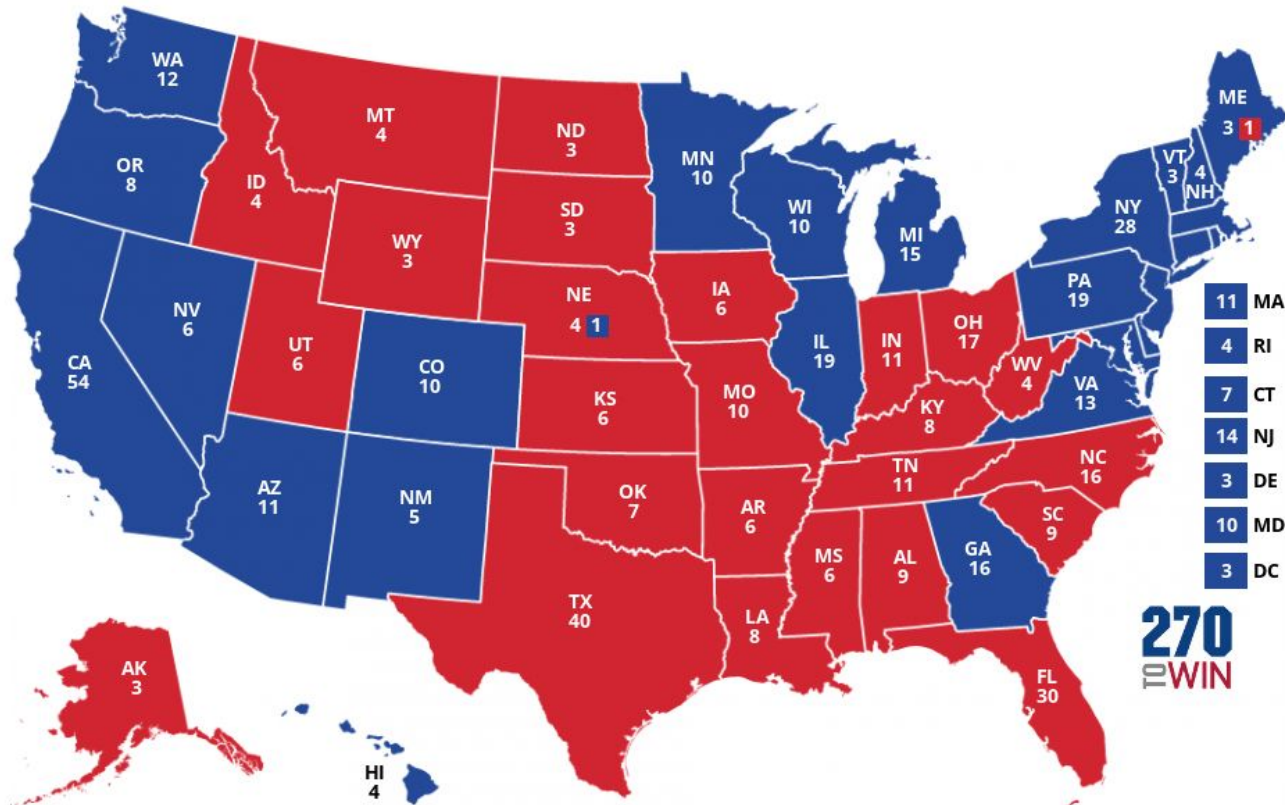
# 2024 Election Map



# 2020 Election Map

Democrats **303**

**235** Republicans



**270**  
WIN

**CHEAO**  
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations  
*More Education For More People.*



# 5 Month Timeline

- Beginning of July: Trump ahead in most polls (Biden, Harris)
- 7/15-18: Rep. Convention – Slight 2-4 point bump for Trump
- 7/21: Biden drops out – Race tightened
- 8/1: Harris chosen – Harris bump of 3-5 points
- 8/19-22: Dem. Convention – Maintain, but no bump
- September: Harris maintains lead but no increase
- October: Middle of month race tightens – Harris up +1,+2
- Harris favorability up mid September, down

# Keys from Exit Polling

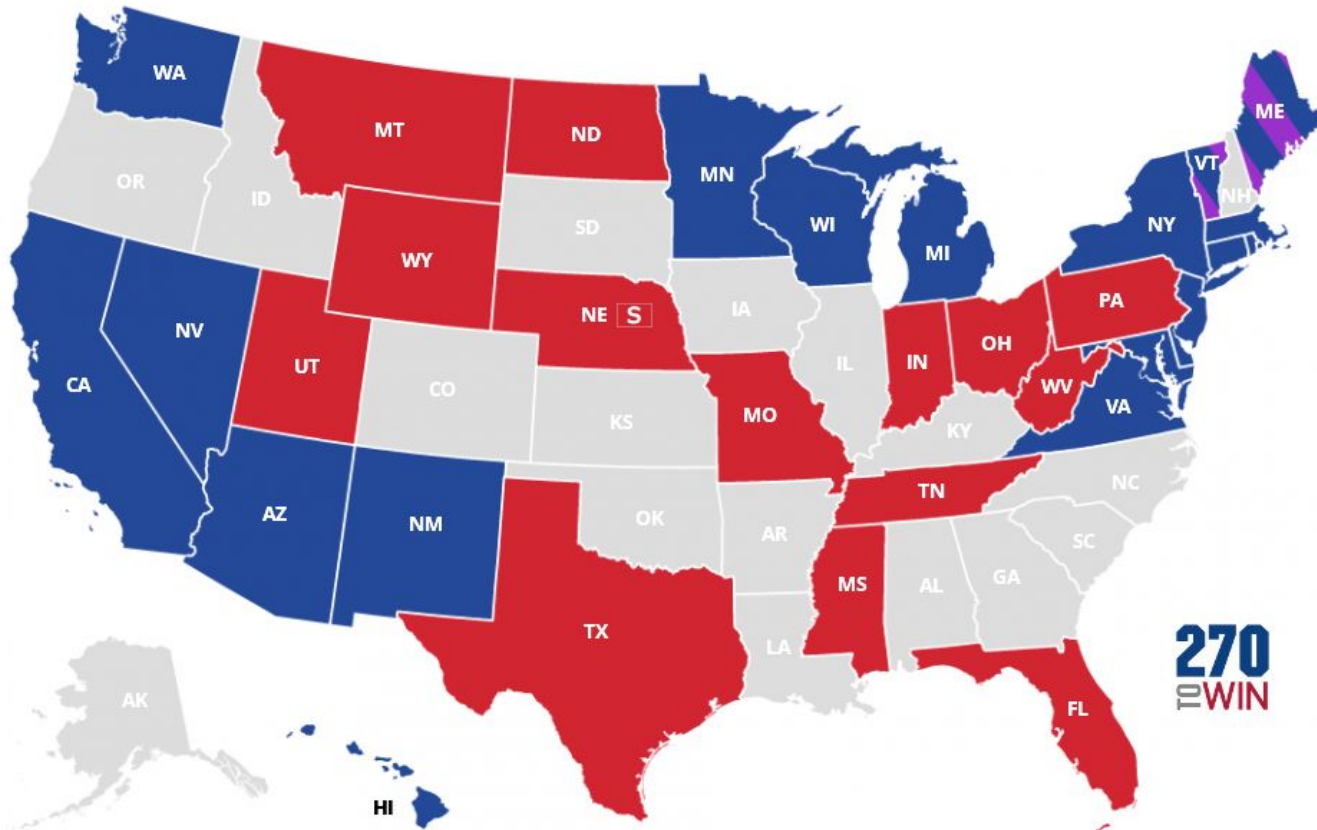
- Voters aged 18-29: Harris won by 11% (Biden – 24%)
- Voters over 65: Even this year (Trump by 5% in '20)
- Hispanic Men: 55% for Trump (Over 1/3 in '20) (6%)
- Hispanic Women: 60% for Harris (Biden -70%) (6%)
- 71% of voters were white
- Catholic voters: 58% for Trump (Biden +5) (22%)
- Issues
  - Economy (32%): Trump – 80%
  - Democracy (34%): Harris = 80%



# Senate Elections

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# Senate Elections



**270**  
TO WIN



**CHEAO**  
Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations  
*More Education For More People.*



# Senate Elections

- 34 Seats up for reelection: 23 – D/I, 11 – R
- Key races
  - Open seats: AZ, MI and WV
  - MT, NV, OH, PA, and WI
- Democrat Winners
  - AZ: Ruben Gallego
  - MI: Elissa Slotkin
- Republican Winners
  - MT: Tim Sheehy (beat Jon Tester)
  - OH: Bernie Moreno (beat Sherrod Brown)
  - PA: Dave McCormick (beat Bob Casey)
  - WV: Jim Justice

# 119<sup>th</sup> Congress & New Administration

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# Lame Duck Session

- Fiscal Year 24/25 Appropriations
  - CR passed – funded government until 12/20/24
  - Most likely another CR until March 2025
- Judicial Appointments
- Disaster Relief
- Farm Bill
  - Likely a one-year extension



# Trump Administration

- First actions
  - Issuances of Memoranda & Executive Orders
    - establishing a broad regulatory policy goals
  - Memorandum establishing a “regulatory freeze”.
- Roll back of Biden-era rules
  - “Resolutions of disapproval” under the CRA
- Potential Actions/Priorities
  - Re-implementation of the “regulatory budget program”
  - Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE)
  - “Schedule F”

# Congressional Review Act (CRA)

- The Congressional Review Act (CRA), is a little-known oversight tool Congress may use to overturn final rules issued by federal agencies.
- The CRA can be used at all times during a Congress but is most frequently used during a change in administration and when there is a shift in majority control.
- Does not appear to be any Higher Education Rules that would be targeted.

# 118<sup>th</sup> versus 119<sup>th</sup> Congress

- 118<sup>th</sup> Congress
  - House: 220 Republicans – 212 Democrats (3 vacancies)
    - Speaker Mike Johnson (3 weeks)
  - Senate: 47 Democrats – 49 Republicans – 4 Independents
- 119<sup>th</sup> Congress
  - House: 220 Republicans – 212 Democrats (3 recounts)
  - Senate: 45 Democrats – 2 Independents – 53 Republicans



# Senate Committees

- **Health, Education, Labor, & Pensions Committee:**



**Dr. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)**  
**Chair**



**Bernie Sander (I-VT)**  
**Likely Ranking Member**

# House Committees

## ● Education & the Workforce Committee:



**Dr. Virginia Foxx (R-NC)**  
**Former** Chair



**Tim Walberg (R-MI)**  
**Potential** Chair



**Burgess Owens (R-UT)**  
**Potential** Chair



**Bobby Scott (D-VA)**  
**Likely** Minority Leader

## Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment:

- Chair – Burgess Owens (R-UT) - ???
- Ranking – Frederica Wilson (D- FL)

# Cabinet Nominations

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# Cabinet Picks and Other Top Staff

- White House chief of staff: Susie Wiles
- Secretary of state: Marco Rubio
- Attorney general: Pam Bondi (after Matt Gaetz withdrew)
- HHS secretary: Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
- Office of Management and Budget Director: Russ Vought
- U.N. ambassador: Elise Stefanik
- Defense secretary: Pete Hegseth
- Secretary of veterans affairs: Doug Collins
- National security adviser: Michael Waltz

# Cabinet Picks and Other Top Staff

- Interior secretary: Doug Burgum
- Secretary of energy: Chris Wright
- Secretary of transportation: Sean Duffy
- Secretary of commerce: Howard Lutnick
- Secretary of education: Linda McMahon
- Secretary of the treasury: Scott Bessent
- Secretary of labor: Lori Chavez-DeRemer
- White House counsel: William McGinley
- FCC chairman: Brendan Carr

# Department of Education

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# Linda McMahon

- Head of the Small Business Administration (2017-2019)
- Chair of the American First Policy Institute
- Former President and CEO of World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc.
- Connecticut Board of Education (Jan 2009 – Apr 2010)
- Policy positions
  - Workforce/skills development
  - Workforce Pell



# Education Expectations

- Student Loan Forgiveness
  - Maintain administrative simplification
  - Scale back
    - Payment interpretations
    - Borrower Defense claims
    - SAVE Repayment program
- Other Regulations of Note
  - Title IX
  - GE/FVT
  - Forgiveness/Hardship

# Abolishing the Department of ED

- Most talked about Education Issue.
  - Many have tried, none (to date) have succeeded
- Senate bill S5384 – To Abolish the Department of Education, and for other purposes.
  - Introduced by Senator Rounds (R-SD) – wont move in 118<sup>th</sup>, will likely be reintroduced in 119th
  - Key programs and funding streams would be moved to other federal agencies.

# Student Loans

- No specific promises on how to handle student loan debt.
  - Critical of student loan debt relief.
- SAVE Repayment Plan – currently on pause until court ruling.
  - Likely will be killed by incoming administration
- Financial Hardship Neg. Reg
  - Likely will be killed by incoming administration
- Public Student Loan Forgiveness
  - Wanted to eliminate in first term, didn't have congressional support.



# Title IV/Curriculum & DEI

- President Elect has made it clear there will be changes to Title IX.
- Vocal about withholding federal funds for colleges with DEI policies and programs
- Potential tax to endowments, impose budget reconciliation, and fine institutions if they are perceived as having promoted “wokeism”.

# Student Visa Numbers

- The US has long been the most popular destination for international students.
- International students almost always pay higher tuition and fees than domestic.
- Previous term the administration tried banning some international students.
  - 12% fewer students came to the U.S. in first administration
- Financial insecure colleges may suffer

# CFPB

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Now

What?!?

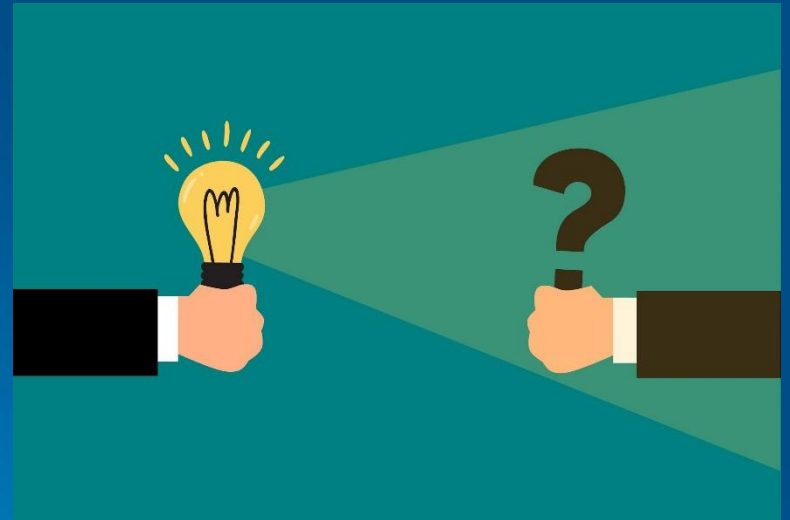
~~Current CFPB~~

Director will likely  
be forced out.

Current rules could  
be dumped

CFPB autonomy  
could be weakened

New rules may be  
laxer toward  
financial institutions





# States Actions

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# California Bill AB 1160

- Prohibit withholding diplomas and certificates
- Allow students to register when debt is still owed. (one-time)
- No credit reporting for 180 days
- No third-party debt collection for 180 days
  - Send off letter must be sent before debt collection
- No tax offset until 730 days.

# Upcoming COHEAO Events

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# COHEAO Webinars

- **Wednesday, December 11:**
  - 1098T Overview
  
- **2025 Webinar Topics**
  - Ask An Attorney
  - FAFSA Issues
  - COHEAO Town Hall Meeting
  - Tuition Payment Plans
  - Financial Literacy



We're going  
back!

Nashville, TN



COHEAO Annual  
June 2 & 3, 2025



# Questions?

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COHEAO - President

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