

Modern History Should Guide the Right Over the Next Four Years

By Matt A. Mayer

Coming off the bitter presidential election defeat in 2020 and four years of constantly being attacked and derided by the Left, the media, the entertainment industry, and, more recently, the woke leaders of professional sports and corporate America, it is beyond understandable for the Right to be angry. Modern history, however, should cause the Right to quickly release its anger and focus all of its energy instead on being happy warriors defending American Exceptionalism with a robust, positive agenda. The image of the Right over the next four years should be U.S. Senator Tim Scott's inspiring message responding to President Joe Biden, not the misguided January 6 rioters.

Let me explain with a little history and data.

In 1992, Bill Clinton won the presidency with a plurality of voters. After that election, the cumulative total of U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators, and governors stood at 345 Democrats to 237 Republicans. Democrats controlled The White House, the U.S. House (258 to 176), the U.S. Senate (57 to 43), and governorships (30 to 18). The Reagan Era appeared over and Republicans looked to be stuck in a permanent minority. There had not been a Republican Speaker of the House in over forty years.

Newt Gingrich had other plans. He carefully recruited candidates and put together the "Contract

with America" that contained ten proposals widely popular with Americans and utterly consistent with the idea of American Exceptionalism — government of, by, and for the People. At the same time, President Clinton went full liberal-progressive by pushing HillaryCare and the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy that along with scandals drove his popularity downward. Gingrich et al. successfully made the 1994 midterm election a referendum on Clinton's presidency.

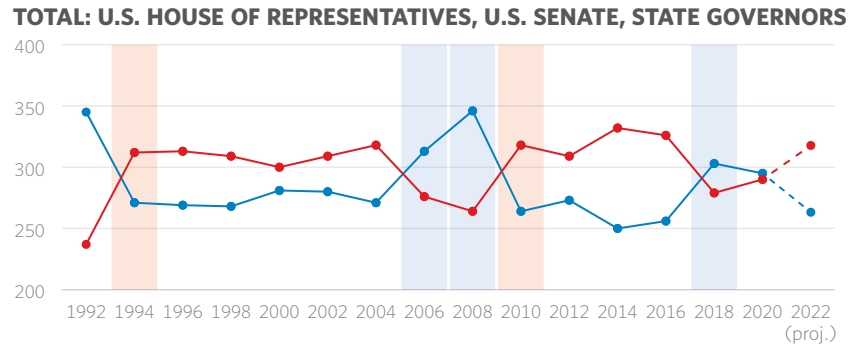
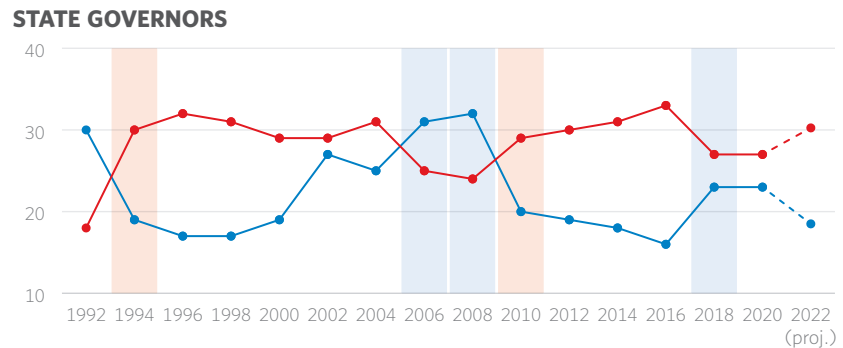
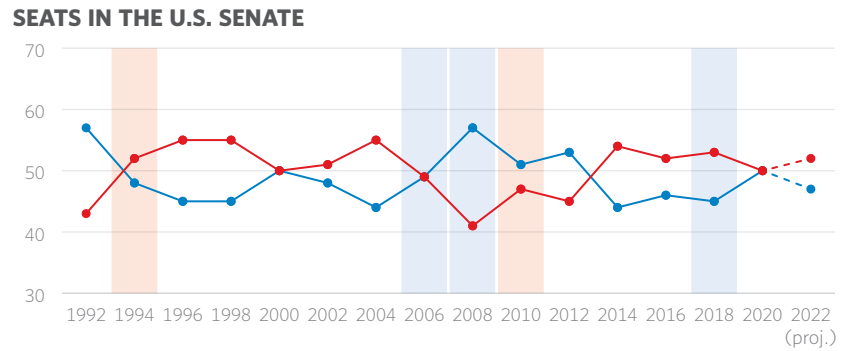
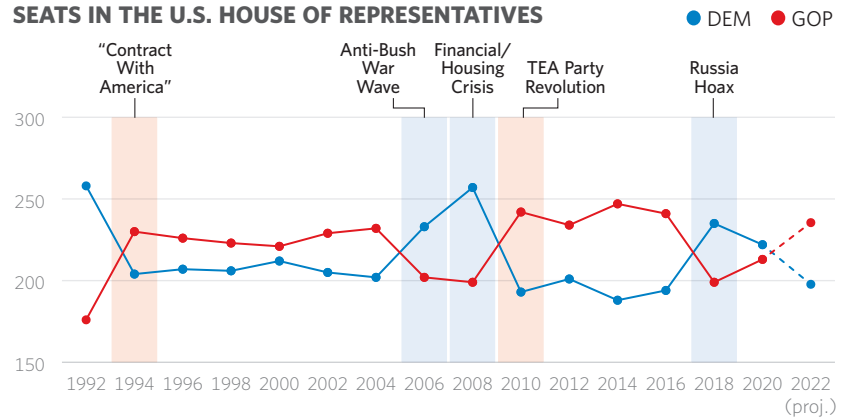
The "Contract with America" and Clinton's radicalism resulted in Republicans sweeping the elections in 1994. The total swing of representatives, senators, and governors totaled 149 wins. Congressman Gingrich became Speaker of the House with a 230 to 204 Republican majority. Republicans also took control of the U.S. Senate (52 to 48) and a clear majority of governorships (30 to 19).

It would take the Democrats twelve years to take back the U.S. House (233 to 202) and U.S. Senate (51 to 49) on the back of an anti-George W. Bush wave due to the debacle of the Iraq War. Democrats not only took back Congress in 2006, but also grabbed a majority of governorships (31 to 25) for the first time since the 1992 election.

Democrat control of the U.S. House only would last for four years. Just like with Clinton, upon winning the presidency in 2008, Barack Obama misinterpreted America's desire for socialism by ramming

Looking at 2022, History Is On the Side of Republicans

In the 1994 and 2010 midterm elections, Republicans made enormous gains across the board after a new Democrat president spent his first two years pushing a progressive, left-wing agenda. Bill Clinton's HillaryCare and "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" military policy led to the Newt Gingrich's "Contract with America." In 2010, Barack Obama's passage of ObamaCare by razor-thin partisan majorities led to the TEA Party Republican Revolution. With Joe Biden spending his first 100 days appeasing the progressive Antifa/BLM faction on the left, all signs point to another Republican rout in 2022.



through ObamaCare on party line votes in Congress. That single act resulted in the massive rise of the TEA Party movement in 2010 that ushered in dozens of candidates explicitly running on a conservative, pro-America agenda aimed at stopping the Democrats from passing more socialist laws.

As in 1994, the 2010 anti-Obama midterm wave election drove Republicans back into control in the U.S. House (242 to 193) and a majority of governorships (29 to 20). Republicans took back control of the U.S. Senate in 2014 (54 to 46). They would keep control of the U.S. House until the midterm elections in 2018, with Republicans making strong gains in 2020 leaving Democrats now clinging to control 222 to 213.

Similarly, after Republicans gained a seat in the 2018 midterm elections, control of the U.S. Senate split 50-50 after the 2020 election (51 to 50 with Vice President Kamala Harris's vote). Republicans still control a majority of governorships (27 to 23). After the 2020 elections, the cumulative split between the parties stands at 295 Democrats versus 290 Republicans among representatives, senators, and governors. Thus, America is literally about as divided a country politically as it can get.

Yet, history is repeating, as Biden and the Left have spent the first 100 days of his administration pushing unapologetically left-wing policies focused on wokism and America as a systemically racist country, which have rapidly driven Biden's approval ratings to the second lowest in modern history. Because the Democrat base will tolerate nothing less than an overtly progressive agenda, Biden will continue to govern from the progressive Left. All of this bodes well for a massive Republican sweep in 2022.

The key for the Right is to repeat what it did in 1994 and 2010 during the first midterm elections of Democrat presidents who opted to push left-wing policies. Recruit great candidates and develop a positive, pro-America agenda for those candidates to run on. If history is any guide, that approach should usher in Republican majorities in the U.S. House (235 to 198), the U.S. Senate (52 to 48), and a strong majority of governorships (30 to 19).

It also should lay the foundation for retaking The White House in 2024. To do that, however, Republicans must not make the same mistakes they made in 1996 (Bob Dole) and 2012 (Mitt Romney) by nominating weak candidates who don't inspire and drive the base to vote and who can't attract other voters into the fold. For all of Donald Trump's personal foibles, despite the unprecedented onslaught of negative media and the Russia hoax for five years, with his policy agenda and victories, he still managed to attract long-time Democrat blue-collar voters and the largest number of minority voters of any modern Republican candidate.

The 2024 nominee needs to build on that legacy by running on a Trumpist, pro-America agenda without the negative Trump personality issues. That puts the spotlight on Florida Governor Rod DeSantis, U.S. Senator Tim Scott, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem. Hopefully for the Right, Trump will decline to run, help raise as much money as possible in 2022 and 2024, and fully support a ticket with two of these four pro-Trump politicians on it. History is unequivocally on their side unless their leaders fail to heed the lessons of history and snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.