



## **Election Takeaways**

November 7, 2024

While the results of over 30 Congressional races have yet to be determined and we do not yet know who will control the U.S. House of Representatives, a few significant issues will likely lead the education agenda of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### **Education Funding**

One of the immediate issues facing Congress will be funding for the U.S. Department of Education. Congress missed the September 30 deadline to finalize appropriations by “kicking the can” to December 20<sup>th</sup> with a Continuing Resolution. A longer delay would likely not be good news in terms of funding Title I and Title II.

### **Vouchers**

Another key issue will involve vouchers. In 2017, a bill was introduced in Congress to expand the use of college savings accounts (529) for home schooling expenses. Expect to see a significant effort to advance universal school choice (Educational Choice for Children Act) involving a tax credit program.

Interestingly, there were three state-wide ballot measures related to school choice and all 3 failed.

Colorado voters were asked if they wanted to amend the state constitution to establish a right to school choice. Amendment 80 needed 55% support to pass, and it failed to reach that threshold.

Kentucky’s Amendment 2 asked voters if they wanted to amend the state’s constitution to state that, “The General Assembly may provide financial support for the education of students outside the system of common schools.” The measure failed.

Earlier this year, the Nebraska legislature passed Legislative Bill 1402, which created a \$10 million fund for scholarships for students to attend private schools. Voters repealed the law by a substantial margin.

### **E-Rate, Broadband, Connectivity**

A third issue will involve the E-Rate program and its related programs provided by the Universal Service Fund to support greater internet connectivity. With a case pending before the U.S.

Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of the funding mechanism for the program, Congressional action may be needed to prevent the \$9 billion program from ending.

### **Other Issues**

We also anticipate that Congress will quickly move to rescind recently enacted Title IX regulations, to consider legislation expanding parental rights, and ensure more data privacy.

### **The Work Ahead**

COSSBA is a voluntary, nonpartisan, national alliance dedicated to sharing resources and information to support, promote and strengthen state school boards associations as they serve their local school districts and board members. We reaffirm our dedication to collaborating with all elected officials—from local leaders to the president of the United States—to champion and strengthen our public education system to ensure educational opportunities and success for every student.

Our members and the students and families they serve cover the political spectrum, and our public schools serve every child, every day. Our commitment to remaining nonpartisan allows COSSBA to work with all our political leaders and members of Congress. We will remain true to our [advocacy positions](#) and continue to work in support of the 25 state associations that serve nearly 6,700 school boards and 24 million students.

As the issues emerge, we will need the engagement of the state associations and the members they serve. We stand ready to help members of Congress and the administration understand the impact of the decisions they face on our public schools—the cornerstone of our democracy.

Dr. Thomas E. Bertrand, Executive Director  
COSSBA