

## Polling News & Notes

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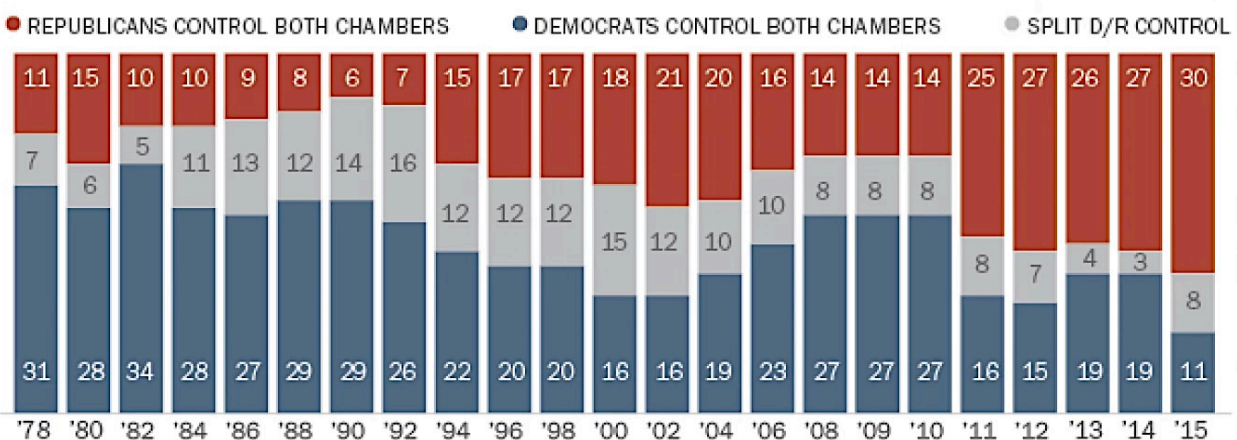
**Republicans Strengthen Control At State Level:** Republicans added to their U.S. House majority and captured the U.S. Senate in the 2014 Midterms, but they also swept the elections at the state level. In fact, Republicans made significant gains at the state level in every election since the 2010 Midterms, more than doubling the number of states in which they control both chambers of the legislature since President Barack Obama took office.

A recent Pew Research [report](#) shows Republicans now control both chambers in thirty states, compared to fourteen states in 2009. Democrats now control both chambers in eleven states, compared to twenty-seven in 2009. Democrats have lost more than 900 legislative seats since 2009, whereas Republicans have gained 888 legislative seats. Republicans also have total control over twenty-three states, where the party controls both chambers of the legislature and the governor's office. Though Nebraska has a unicameral (and nominally) non-partisan legislature, it is comprised of mostly Republicans and there is a Republican governor. By contrast, Democrats have total control of only six states.

Since state legislatures play a huge role in redistricting, Democrats are aiming to make significant gains in the coming four years before the next Census. It is easy to understand why the Democratic National Committee's Democratic Victory Task Force is [prioritizing](#) winning state legislative seats. This will be a large task, given the GOP strength on the state level and because more voters today identify themselves as conservative, according to [Gallup](#). But Republicans would be wise not to be complacent.

### Partisan Composition of State Legislatures

Number of state legislatures



Note: Nebraska's unicameral legislature is officially nonpartisan, and is not included. Counts are as of January of each year, except June 2014 and February 2015. Prior to 2008, data available only for even-numbered years.

Source: National Conference of State Legislatures

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