



**AMERICAN
ELECTIONS**
2020

Post-Election Update

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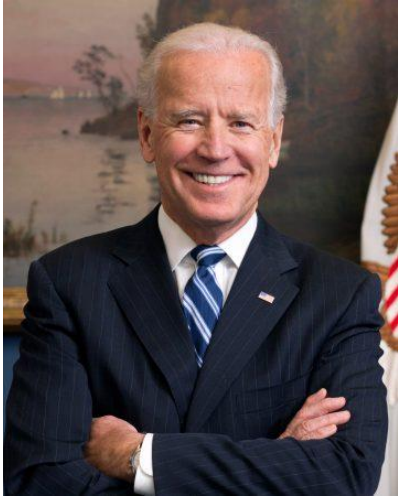
*Joseph J. Fifer, FHFMA, CPA,
President and CEO, HFMA*

HFMA-UK Annual Conference, December 9, 2020

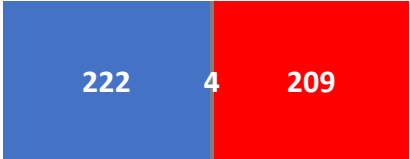
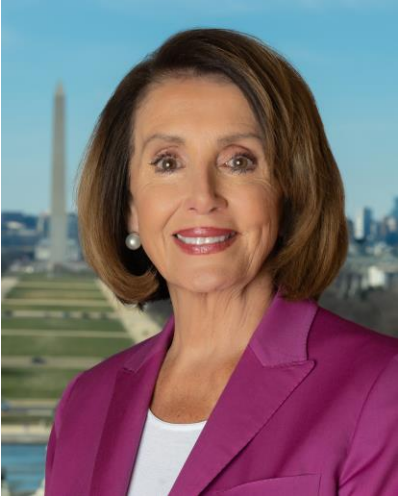
Election Results Are (Almost) In

While the White House changed hands, the House majority remains Democratic and the Senate majority is Republican, pending the outcome of a runoff election for two senate offices in January.

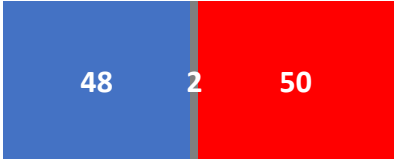
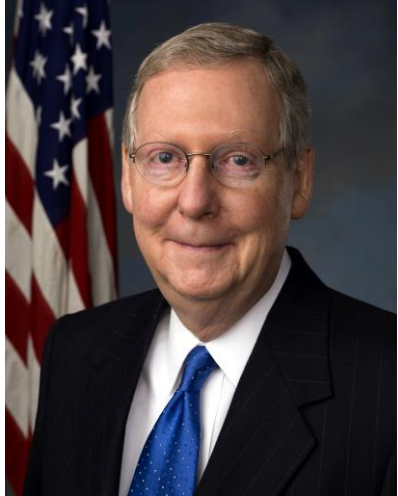
White House



House of Representatives



Senate








Seat Count: Democrat Undecided Republican

Pressing Priorities

The Biden administration may be forced to deal with urgent issues that will limit its ability to pursue preferred policy priorities.



Challenges Facing Incoming Administration






-  Managing the pandemic
-  Passing a budget/keeping government open
-  Passing additional COVID relief package
-  California v. Texas (lawsuit seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act)
-  Pending Medicare Part A trust fund insolvency

Opportunities for Bipartisanship

Action on policy issues is possible where there is general bipartisan support.



Opportunities for Legislative/Regulatory Action

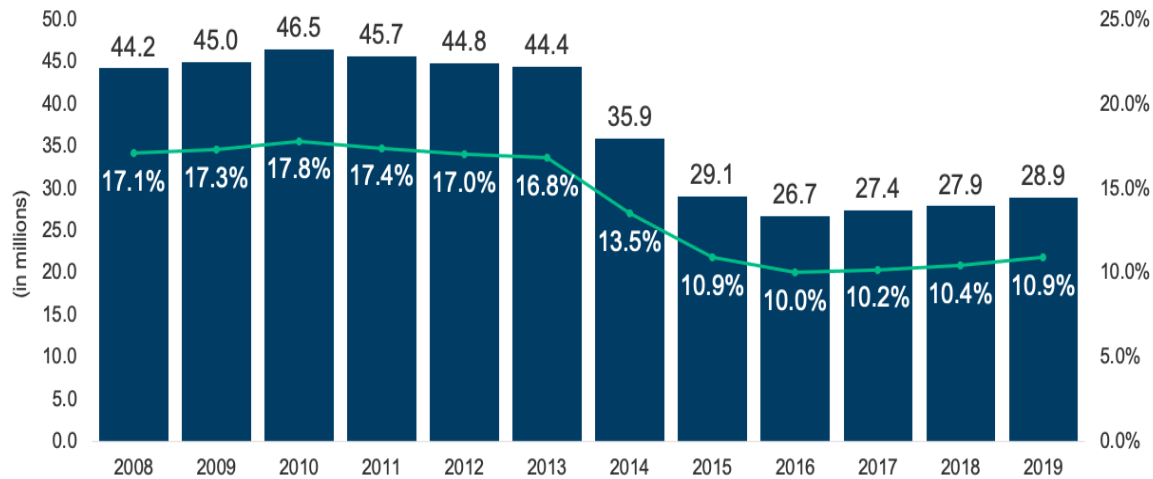
-  Surprise bills
-  Telehealth
-  Medicare drug prices
-  Price transparency
-  Alternative payment models

Reducing the Uninsured

While sweeping legislation to expand coverage is off the table for the next two years, the Biden Administration has regulatory options to decrease the uninsured.

Figure 1

Number of Uninsured and Uninsured Rate among the Nonelderly Population, 2008-2019

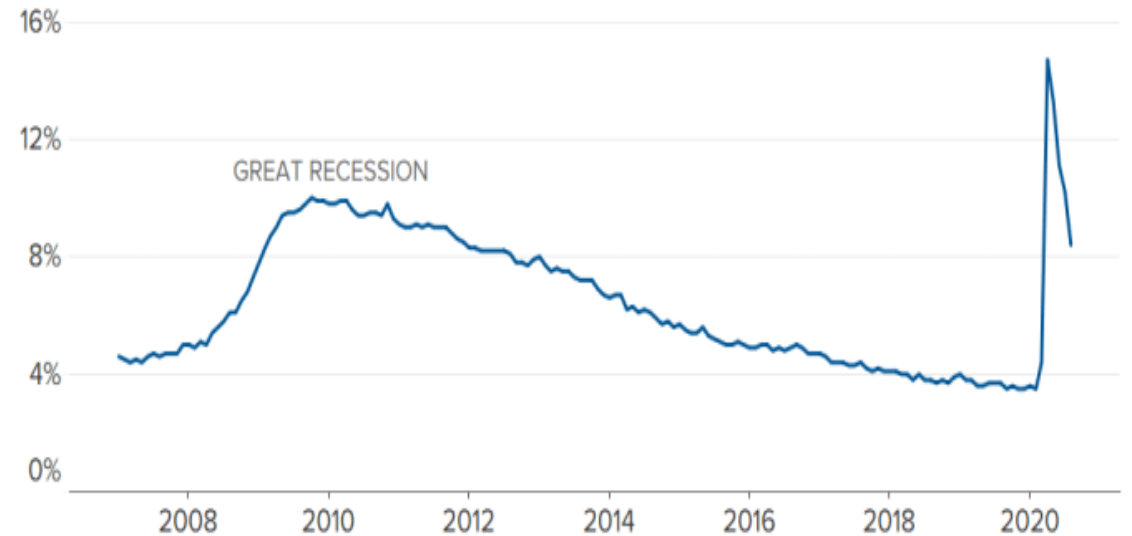


NOTE: Includes nonelderly individuals ages 0 to 64.
SOURCE: KFF analysis of 2008-2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates.



Jobless rate drops to 8.4% in August

Monthly unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted



SOURCE: Bureau of Labor Statistics. 1948 is earliest data available from BLS.



Medicare Payments

Major changes in the *direction* of Medicare's fee-for-service payment policies are not anticipated from the Biden administration. Continued movement toward value-based payment is expected.



Key Areas for Plans/Providers



Site-Neutrality



340B Drugs



Evaluation & Management payments



Quality Payment Program

Pandemic: The Next Phase

”2020 will be remembered for the many lives lost from COVID-19, lockdowns and the U.S. election. Science should now be added to this list.”

--Peter Piot, director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, reflecting on encouraging results from multiple COVID-19 vaccine trials

