U.S. Midterm Elections

(Translated)

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By: Ustadh Muhammad Ibrahim – America

The U.S. midterm elections are typically held every four years on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November, midway through the president's four-year term. These elections include all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, as representatives serve two-year terms, and approximately one-third of the 100 Senate seats (33–35), since senators serve six-year terms. They also involve electing 34 to 39 of the 50 state governors, in addition to state legislative and municipal-level local elections. The most recent midterm election took place on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

It is common for the ruling party to lose its majority in both the Congress and the Senate during midterm elections; in fact, this outcome is considered a general rule and a fixed law in American politics. The president's party has lost midterm elections in 37 out of 40 instances since the Civil War. This pattern results from several factors, most notably the punishment of the president's party for economic or political crises during the first two years of the term. This week's midterm elections were no exception. The Democratic Party achieved a majority in both the House and the Senate, as well as among state governors. The most notable breakthrough occurred in Kansas, where Democrats won a Senate seat—a feat not achieved since 1932. In Texas, considered the crown jewel of the Republican Party and one of the wealthiest, largest states by area and population, Republicans lost the governorship and a Senate seat. One of the most telling statements about the Republican loss came from Ted Cruz, one of Texas's senators: "Texas is blue. That is a hard sentence to utter. But Texas, today at least, is blue," where blue symbolizes the Democratic Party and red the Republican Party. He noted with regret that he had become the only remaining Republican official holding an elected position at the state level.

This year's elections, however, have sparked domestic and international reactions distinct from previous cycles. Many hope for changes in America's domestic and foreign policy. It is no exaggeration to say that widespread joy is evident among the general public at home and abroad, and even among politicians worldwide. This joy reflects spite toward Trump and toward America's foreign policy, which is seen as rooted in injustice, oppression, wars, and the exploitation of people's needs.

The question arises: Will the election results, with Democrats gaining a majority, place obstacles before Trump during his remaining two years? To answer this, we must examine Trump's foreign policy toward China, Europe, and Islamic countries, as well as his domestic policy.

Regarding foreign policy, no significant change is expected, nor is the Democratic Party likely to demand one—beyond perhaps some tactical adjustments—because U.S. foreign policy is driven by national interests and those of major corporations. Policy toward China will not shift, as it is not impulsive but broadly agreed upon in

America. Similarly, policy toward Europe is bipartisan; the Democratic Biden administration dragged Europe into the war in Ukraine, and Trump, despite boasting during his campaign about his relationship with Putin and ability to end the war in a day, did not stop it. Concerning Islamic countries, both parties largely agree, differing mainly in rhetoric. The situation in Gaza did not change between administrations; extermination continues, as do starvation and siege. The reality in Iraq remains unchanged through shifts in U.S. administrations, and the same holds for other Islamic countries. As for the tensions with Iran, the U.S. has benefited from events in the Strait of Hormuz by economically pressuring Europe through energy shortages and rising prices, which increased production costs and led many companies to bankruptcy. Democrats may pressure Trump to reach an agreement with Iran that secures U.S. interests to avoid war, since opposition to war—which drove prices unsustainably high—contributed to their electoral success. Moreover, the American public opposes foreign wars that cost their sons' lives.

On the domestic front, some obstacles and disagreements will emerge. Each party seeks to appoint its members or supporters to government positions such as judges and ambassadors, and to remove undesired officials from departments. There will be pressure to lower domestic energy prices and to halt the tariff war Trump imposed on countries worldwide, which has negatively affected U.S. prices. Immigration policy will also face challenges due to public dissatisfaction, and Democrats will renew efforts to advance their agenda on LGBTQ issues. For Muslims within America, no major difference is expected beyond a change in tone and softer rhetoric, along with attempts to integrate Muslims into American values through inclusion and limited appointments, as seen with recently elected Senator Abdulrahman (Abdul) El-Sayed.

Finally, we must not forget that the U.S. president holds veto power, which Trump has threatened to use and has placed symbolically on his new desk in the Oval Office since the election results were announced, enabling him to pass presidential executive decisions without congressional approval.