MUFG

Policy Note

One week from today, on November 8, a record number of Americans are expected to vote in the 2022 US midterm elections. We have attached our comprehensive publication from this past weekend on our expectations for the election, and have provided below a summary of potential legislative implications for the two most likely post-election scenarios.

Large, complex legislation is very difficult in today's Washington. In addition, the probability of either party gaining a 60 person, filibuster proof, majority in the US Senate is exceptionally low. If Republicans do take control of one or both chambers of Congress, look for less fiscal support and more complexity around regular way legislation (tax extenders, budget, etc.).

Most polling data and forecasting models expect Republicans to take control of the US House while Senate control remains a "toss-up". In either of the two most likely midterm election scenarios, large legislative packages will be challenged by razor thin majorities and "divided" government.

Policy priorities under each election scenario

	Economic Policy	
	Republican "Sweep" GOP House / GOP Senate	"Split" Congress GOP House / Dem Senate
Gridlock on debt ceiling, gov funding	Likely	Likely
Annual US defense spending authorizations	Very Likely	Very Likely
Large fiscal stimulus (even in recession scenarios)	Very Unlikely	Very Unlikely
More drug price controls / expanded ACA subsidies	Very Unlikely	Unlikely
Additional clean energy subsidies	Unlikely	Unlikely
Pipeline permitting by YE 2022	Unlikely	Possible

Tax Policy

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	GOP House / GOP Senate	"Split" Congress
Increase global minimum tax rate to 15%	Very Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Increase the corporate tax rate	Very Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Raise the SALT deduction cap	Very Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Expand Low-Income Housing Tax Credit	Unlikely	Possible
Increase top marginal tax rate	Very Unlikely	Very Unlikely
Larger & more rapid Tax Extenders	Unlikely	Unlikely
Enhanced child tax credits made permanent	Unlikely	Unlikely

	Domestic Policy	
	Republican "Sweep" GOP House / GOP Senate	"Split" Congress GOP House / Dem Senate
More oversight of Biden administration (and nominees)	Very Likely	Likely
More pushback on Trump investigations	Very Likely	Likely
Expanded student loan forgiveness	Unlikely	Unlikely
More expansive / restrictive abortion legislation	Possible	Unlikely
More expansive / restrictive gun control legislation	Unlikely	Unlikely
Immigration reform	Unlikely	Unlikely

	Foreign Policy	
	Republican "Sweep" GOP House / GOP Senate	"Split" Congress , GOP House / Dem Senate
Continued "support" for Ukraine (financial, arms)	Likely	Very Likely
More "scrutiny" on Ukraine spending	Very Likely	Likely
"Tough on China" legislation	Very Likely	Very Likely
Rollback existing China tariffs	Unlikely	Unlikely
Potential "Tough on Saudi / OPEC" legislation(i.e., NOPEC bill)	Possible	Possible
Join new / large global trade agreements	Unlikely	Unlikely

	Financial Market Policy	
	Republican "Sweep" GOP House / GOP Senate	"Split" Congress GOP House / Dem Senate
Digital asset legislation (crypto, stablecoin, CBDC)	Likely	Possible
Stock trading bans for members of Congress	Possible	Possible
Big Tech antitrust legislation	Possible	Possible
Increased Congressional review of Biden ESG / climate agenda for financial services sector	Likely	Possible
Heightened consumer protection regulation	Possible	Possible

Source: MUFG US Government Affairs Office (Hollinger), Veda Partners (Treyz), PIMCO (Cantrill), Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck.

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