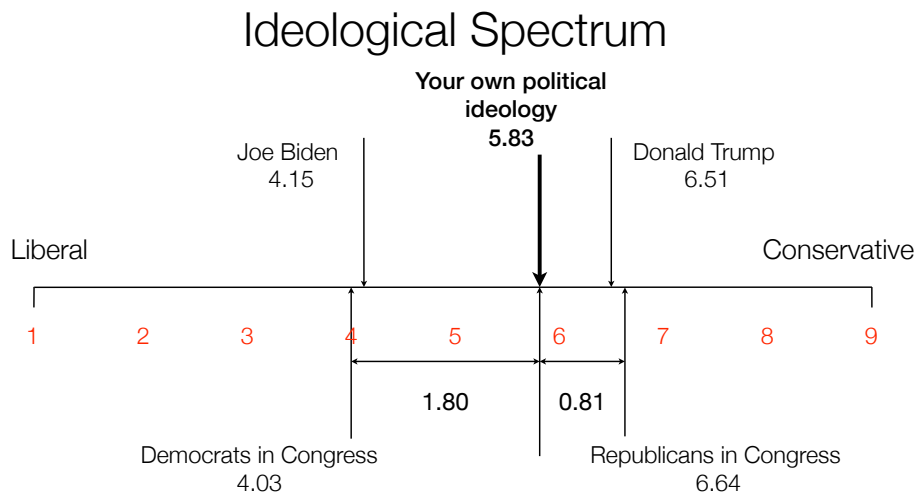


What's Next for House Republicans?

The first few weeks of the new Congress have certainly been tumultuous for House Republicans, nevertheless this week marked another milestone: Democratic Representative Anthony Brindisi conceded to Republican challenger Claudia Tenney in the last uncalled House race (NY 22), putting the 2020 House election margin at 222 D, 213 R. **According to Dave Wasserman from the Cook Report, House Republicans were only 31,751 votes short of winning the majority in the November election.** This is a phenomenal result given the challenges at the top of the ticket.

With this narrow margin, many are starting to feel bullish about Republican prospects for winning the House in 2022. While there is reason to be optimistic, there are challenges that need to be addressed. In 2020, Republicans lost independents by 9 points and women by 14. Although House Republicans outperformed President Trump among those groups, these margins are still concerning looking ahead to the upcoming midterm elections. Both were problems for Republicans in the Georgia Senate races (both the general election and runoffs) and these groups were central to Republicans winning the House in 2010 in which Republicans won women by 1 and independents by 19.

One of the structural advantages Republicans have is a closer alignment to the average voter on issues compared to Congressional Democrats. From the 2020 post-election survey for Winning the Issues (November



1-3, 2020) voters were asked on a scale of 1-9 to identify where they placed their own ideology and the ideology of other entities, with 1 being very liberal and 9 very conservative. Voters placed themselves at a 5.83 - center right. Women placed themselves at 5.74 - also center right - as did independents (5.58). Voters overall placed Republicans in Congress to the right at 6.64, with a distance of 0.81 from the average voter (5.83). They placed Congressional Democrats to

the left at 4.03, with Democrats at a distance of 1.8 from the average voter. This means Congressional Republicans were a full point closer to the average voter than Congressional Democrats - a huge advantage for Republicans. Joe Biden was seen as to the left of the average voter (4.15) but slightly closer to the average voter than Congressional Democrats (4.03).

With this structural advantage on issues, the more that Congressional Republicans can make 2022 about key issues like the economy rather than personality and negative attacks, the more this construct will be a strategic advantage for Republicans and help them build the majority coalition that is needed.

Have a good weekend.

David & Myra