INSIDE THE CAPITOL · FEDERAL

Main Street's Agenda for the Next Congress

Energy costs, tariffs and access to capital will follow small businesses into 2027, whoever wins on November 3.

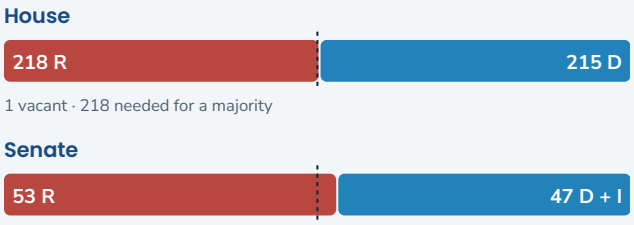
By C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna, Founder and CEO, Localism, Inc.

This week I joined a business leader briefing on the 2026 midterms. The goal was simple: connect Main Street owners with the people who will write the next round of policy. Here is what I took away, and what it means for business owners in San Antonio and across Texas.

A Congress in transition

Going into Election Day, Republicans held narrow majorities in both chambers. Historically, the president's party loses House seats in a midterm. Whatever the result, January brings many new members and new committee leaders. Relationships built now will matter all session.

SEATS GOING INTO ELECTION DAY



Dashed line marks half the chamber. Senate includes two independents who caucus with Democrats.

TURNOVER AHEAD

68

members not seeking reelection



What small businesses are carrying

80% of small business owners report higher energy costs, with few ways to manage them

75% feel rising fuel and transportation costs

$6.4M to $2.1M One owner's revenue, 2024 to 2025, after tariffs blocked product imports

- **Health care.** Premiums and drug prices remain a top cost for employers.
- **Trade swings.** Shifting tariffs force price increases and make planning hard.
- **Access to capital.** Changes to SBA 7(a) and 504 loans have affected terms, fees and eligibility.
- **Workforce.** Owners want community colleges and apprenticeships built around local needs.

Where the decisions get made

Appropriations decides where federal money goes. Ways and Means and Senate Finance shape trade and tax policy. These are the committees to watch:

HOUSE

Appropriations · Financial Services · Budget · Ways and Means · Agriculture · Small Business

SENATE

Appropriations · Finance · Banking · Budget · Agriculture · Small Business · Energy and Natural Resources · Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

What the results could mean

Split Congress

Strong House oversight, fewer bills reaching the President's desk, more executive and regulatory action.

One party controls both

More pressure to deal-make, and a better chance for legislation to move.

50–50 Senate

The highest risk of gridlock.



A tariff set in Washington shows up on a loading dock in Laredo. An energy rule shows up on a utility bill on San Antonio's West Side. Federal policy always lands on Main Street.

Three things you can do now

1

Invite your lawmakers in

Members understand a business best when they see it operate.

2

Stay in touch

Advocacy is a relationship, not a single meeting.

3

Encourage your team to vote

Give accurate information and time to vote, without telling anyone how.

Because at the end of the day, everything is local. Localism helps businesses and organizations make their case in Austin, Washington and Mexico City. If you want to be ready for the next Congress, let's talk: **leroy@localisminc.com** · 210-802-2126.

Localism is a certified Hispanic-, LGBTQ+- and Disabled-owned business.