

2018 Election Results and Insurance Commissioners Summary Analysis

November 2018

Below is an initial and informal analysis of how the 2018 state election results could impact current insurance commissioner positions. At minimum, eight insurance commissioners will be new in 2019, with other changes possible through retirements or other political maneuvering.

- Four states, California, Georgia, Kansas and Oklahoma, elected new insurance commissioners.
 - The Georgia, Kansas and Oklahoma races were won by the Republican candidate.
 - The California race remains too close to call, with the Democratic candidate holding a slight edge over Steve Poizner, former Republican Commissioner.
- Thus far, 31 states with appointed insurance commissioners elected a new governor. In most states, the insurance commissioner serves at the pleasure of the governor. Several of these states select insurance commissioners through a merit or separate process.
 - States with an insurance commissioner selected with additional process beyond gubernatorial appointment are Florida and New Mexico.
- In seven states, the governor's office will move from Independent or Republican to Democrat. Expect the new governors in at least four of these seven states to likely appoint new commissioners.
 - States switching parties in their governor's office are Alaska, Illinois, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico and Wisconsin.
 - New Mexico uses merit selection, so the current commissioner is appointed through December 31, 2019.
 - Maine's commissioner serves for a five-year term, and the current commissioner term expires in 2021, but the position should still be watched for possible change due to political issues.
 - Nevada's current commissioner is a career regulator and former New Hampshire Deputy. Nevada has a history of selecting commissioners on merits, so she may be kept on by the new administration.
- In nine states, new governors from the same party in control were elected. These governors may also choose new commissioners, based on internal state political issues.
 - States are Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Idaho, Minnesota, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee and Wyoming.
 - New appointments are possible in Connecticut, Colorado, Minnesota and Ohio.
- In 15 states, incumbent governors were re-elected, so there is minimal, if any, chance that change will occur in these states.
 - States are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Hawaii, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Vermont.

Current NAIC leadership will not likely be impacted by the election results, but some of these states, such as Maine, should be watched.

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