

Deutsche Bank
PCB International



September 2020

CIO Special



U.S. 2020 elections:
Policy and portfolio implications

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01

Populism goes to the polls?

Historians may look back and see 2016 as a pivotal year. Political establishments were humbled by a new era of populism, first (in June 2016) by the UK's Brexit referendum and then, a few months later, by the election of Donald J. Trump, a political outsider, to the U.S. presidency. Mr. Trump managed to defeat political establishments in both of the mainstream U.S. political parties to do so. Since then, we have seen other populist leaders assume power across the world, in countries like Mexico, Brazil, India, and the UK.

The new era of populism can transcend political boundaries, finding prominence on both the left and right sides for the political spectrum. The term "populist" is both ubiquitous and tough to perfectly define. But it tends to offer an alternative to the traditional rulebook, promising to set the world adrift from the existing world order and global institutions that have led societies and nations out of the Second World War – and reversing a trend towards globalism. Such an alternative approach can of course create economic and political risks. Populism's appeal was boosted by the economic and political fall-out from the global financial crisis that started in 2007 and, in some ways, has yet to be resolved.

The U.S.'s November 2020 elections can be seen as a verdict on four years of a populist administration, but it is clearly much more than that. To understand them and their investment implications, we look first at how the U.S. congressional maps are currently set up for this year's election, with a particular emphasis on the Senate. We then look at what to expect from the election process, with some scenario expectations, before discussing the policy agendas of the candidates and how possible outcomes could shape markets and the economy. Finally, we will review how equity markets have performed historically throughout the presidential election cycle, and suggest how a long-term approach can help with investing in such a politicized environment.

The November 2020 elections are clearly much more than a verdict on a populist administration: policy agendas and possible outcomes may shape markets and the economy.

02

Who needs to win what

The make-up of the legislative branch, or Congress, plays a critical role in implementing anticipated changes by new or existing presidents. In the U.S., the legislative branch is made up of two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate. These share the responsibility of representing their respective constituents in regards to creating new laws, declaring war, overseeing the country's budget, approving the president's appointees, and providing oversight or conducting investigations. Deliberate checks and balances exist in this legislative branch, as they do throughout the U.S. government overall.

As it currently stands, the Democrats make up a majority in the House of Representatives (with 232 seats). Meanwhile, the Republicans hold 198 seats, the Libertarian party holds one, and the remaining four seats are currently vacant.

By contrast, the Republicans hold a three-seat majority in the Senate, having 53 seats. The Democrats hold 45 seats, and the independents hold two seats for an even 100. The 101st seat conditionally lies with the Vice President, currently Mike Pence, who votes to break tied votes and deliver a simple majority.

This current political landscape, mostly in place since the 2018 mid-term elections, creates a hurdle for the sitting president and his party to push through major legislation. President Trump and the Republicans have found it difficult to follow up on another landmark deal like the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 (TCJA) – unlike in the first two years of the Trump Administration, when the President enjoyed control of both chambers of Congress.

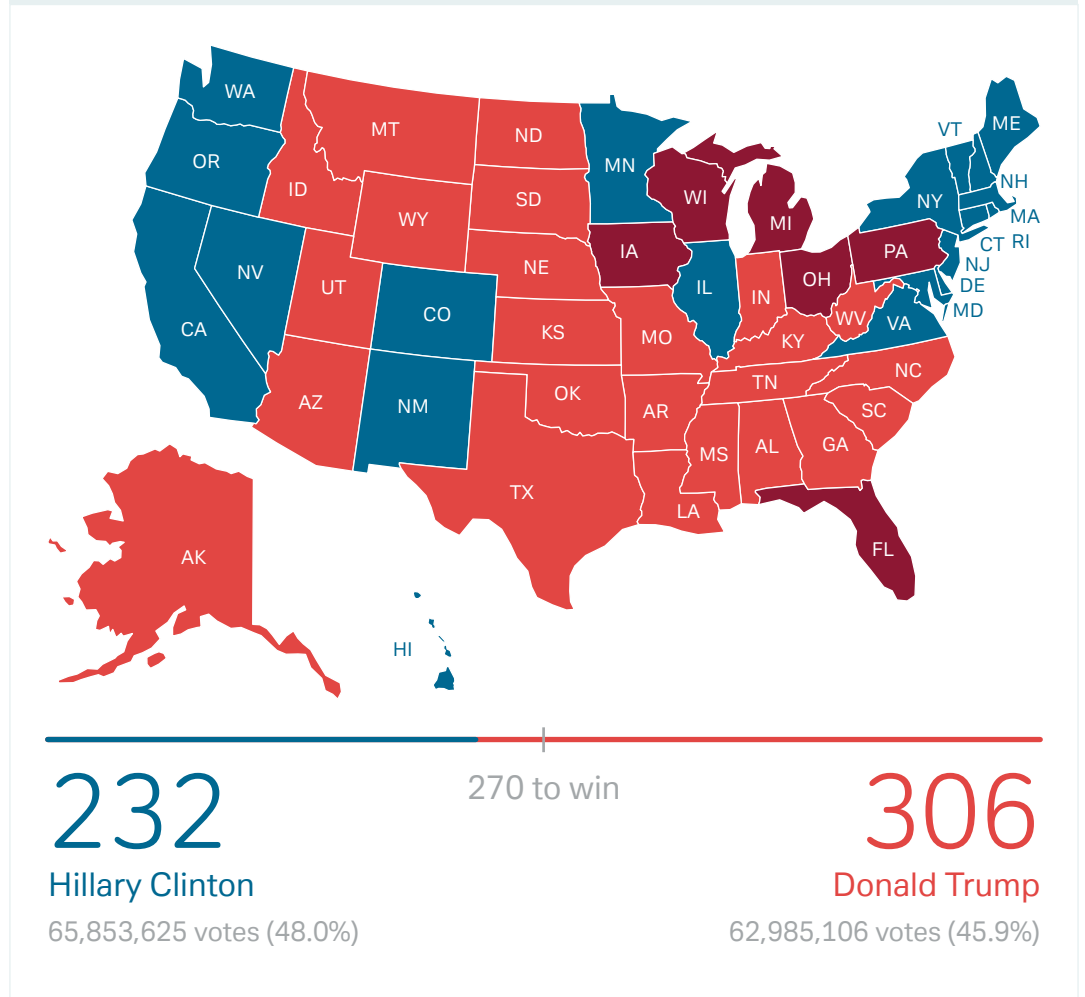
The general expectation is that the House of Representatives will remain with the Democrats in this November's election. But there is much less conviction about which party will ultimately prevail in the Senate. The chances of the Democrats flipping Senate control have increased throughout the year. Republican seats generally seen as at risk can be found in Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Montana and North Carolina.

At the presidential level, the 2016 election reminded us of the importance of the **Electoral College** and a few key swing states. The mechanics of the Electoral College, a body of electors that reconvenes every four years with the sole purpose of officially electing the winning Presidential ticket, are complex. The amount of electoral votes is for the most part proportionately allocated (via the census bureau data) across the 50 states, with the total amount summing up to 538 votes. The problem for Hillary Clinton was that while she receive almost three million more individual votes than her opponent, their distribution across states gave the ultimate advantage to Mr. Trump.

The 2016 election reminded us of the importance of the Electoral College – and the distribution of votes across states.

Figure 1: How the electoral college played out in 2016

Source: New York Times, Deutsche Bank AG. Data as of November 2016.



Winning the most swing states is the key to success in the Electoral College, regardless of exactly how wide or narrow the swing state victories are. In 2016 President Trump was able to flip six total swing states in his favour. Among the six, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin were won by only a narrow margin (of less than 1% and less than 80,000 votes cumulatively), but this still gave him 46 more Electoral College votes. The lesson is to pay more attention to the polling in swing states as opposed to the national numbers. At the time of writing, Mr. Biden has an advantage in almost all of the swing stages, but this lead appears to have been declining. So, even if Mr. Biden maintains a mid-to-high single digit lead from a national polling perspective, this may not necessarily translate into Electoral College success.

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03

Candidates' policies: round-up and review

President Trump: a referendum on four more years?

Trump and deregulation: more to come, but questions over tech. People typically refer to re-election bids as referendums on the incumbent administration, and given that the Republican Party's official platform for 2020 was simply a reissue from the one debuted at the 2016 Republican National Convention, it seems that Trump administration is not averse to this comparison. President Trump's administration, as well as his loyal supporters, have stayed focused on the progress made on the U.S. economy and being "tough on trade". The Trump administration was quick to take advantage of the majority control that the Republican Party held in his first two years, passing major legislation such as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017. Over the last four years, the most notable changes from a markets standpoint are centred on corporate tax reform and deregulation.

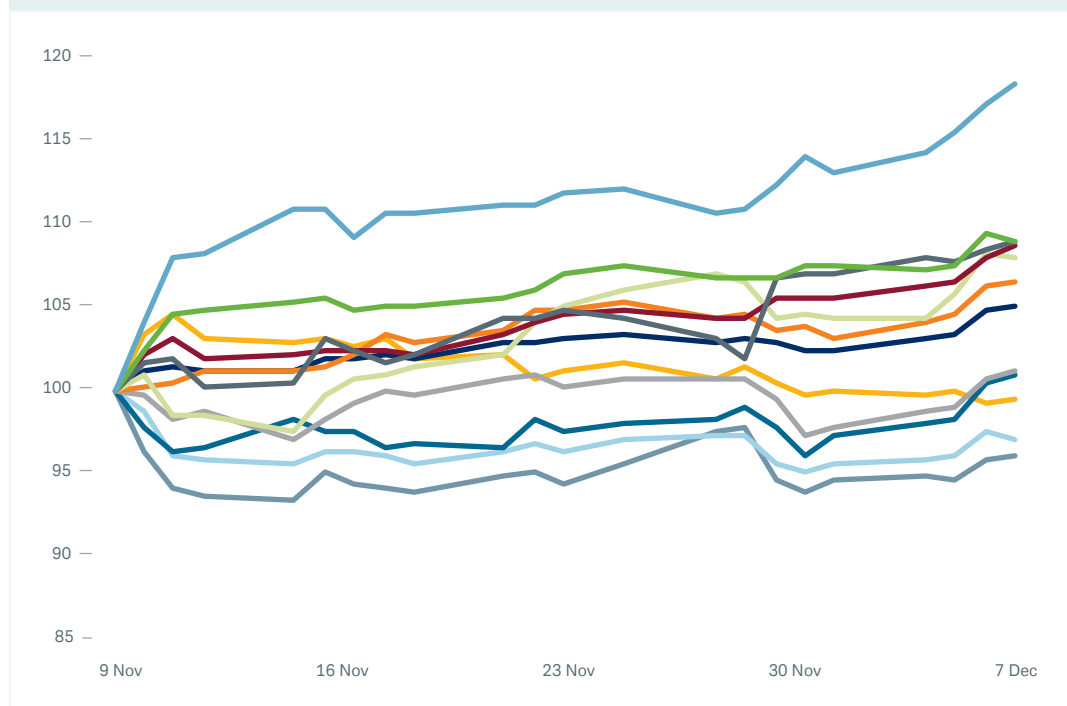
Below, we have highlighted the sector performance for the month following the 2016 election victory of President Trump. The market was quick to price in regulatory relief from a Republican sweep in the Financials, Energy, Communication Services, and Industrials sectors. This regulatory relief came in forms of a much more lenient interpretation of the Dodd-Frank act, new leases for drilling on federal lands, and a broader reduction of "red-tape" for businesses. Additionally, the Materials sector outperformance was boosted by hopes for a large infrastructure deal, now something that might be replicated with a Biden win. That being said, the Trump administration has shared their concerns over big-tech companies, and recent actions taken by his Department of Justice suggest that they are actively reviewing anti-trust policies for these companies.

Investment implications: A second term for President Trump could mean a continuation of its first term's deregulatory regime, with the possible exception of some big tech names.

Candidates are offering very different (but often not clearly defined) policies on regulation, taxation, infrastructure and healthcare.

Figure 2: Sectoral performance of the S&P 500 index in the first month after President Trump's 2016 victory

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Deutsche Bank AG. Data as of December 2016.



● S&P 500
 ● Energy
 ● Industrials
 ● Financials
 ● Telecommunications
● Real Estate
 ● Information Technology
 ● Consumer Discretionary
 ● Consumer Staples
● Materials
 ● Healthcare
 ● Utilities

Trump and taxation: staying dovish. In regards to the tax reform, the landmark bill passed in 2017 decreased the range on the personal income tax rates from 10-39.6% to 10-37%. In addition to reduced range, almost all of the income tax brackets (except for the lowest tier) saw a reduction in their federal tax rate.

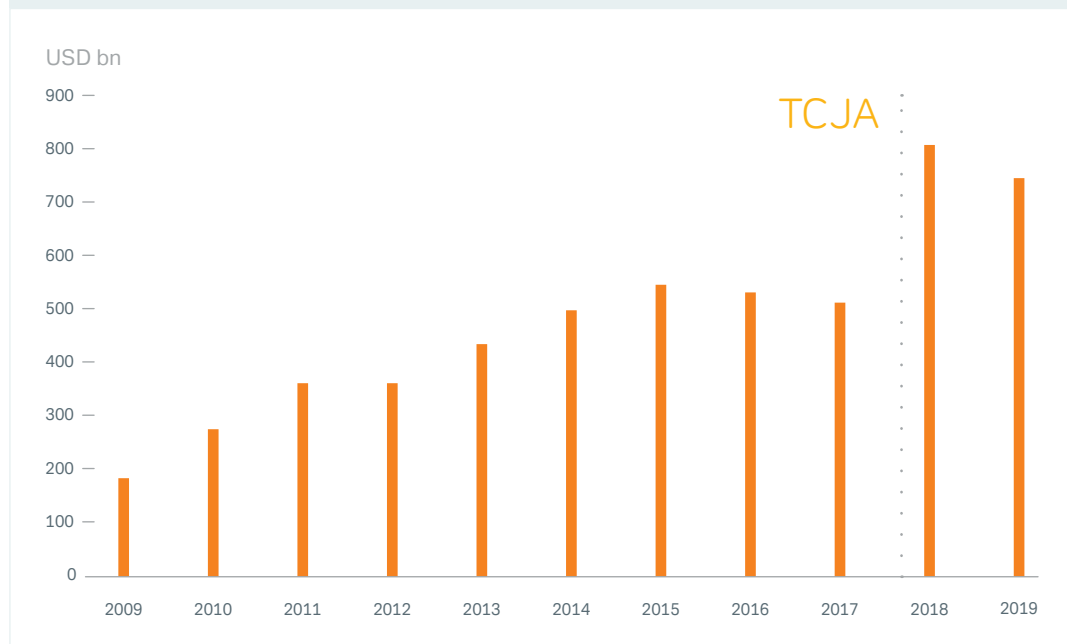
On the corporate front, the TCJA reduced the top corporate tax rate from 35% to 21%, which has significantly impacted equity markets and corporate profitability. Estimates suggest that almost 90% of the marginal gains from 2017 to 2019 were directly due to the reduction in the corporate rate. Additionally, this reduction in taxation has allowed for corporations to further increase share buy backs, with the nominal dollar amount of share buy backs totalling a record amount of over USD800bn in calendar year 2018 (as highlighted in the bar chart below). This has provided a significant tailwind for the U.S. equity market over the last few years, as repurchases of a company's shares reduce the total number of shares outstanding and help drive up profitability metrics such as earnings per share (EPS) growth – thus justifying higher and higher valuations.

Investment implications: A November victory for President Trump may help support corporate profitability through the continuation of a dovish tax regime. This should provide a favourable technical backdrop to equities from a share buyback perspective.

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Figure 3: Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) gives a boost to share buybacks

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Deutsche Bank AG. Data as of September 10, 2020.



- Aggregate buybacks of S&P 500 companies.

Trump and infrastructure/healthcare: new initiatives possible. President Trump once favoured a sizeable infrastructure package during his candidacy. However, the focus on tax reform and renegotiating trade deals has led to infrastructure being placed on the back-burner. Candidate Trump also promised to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA), something that he and his Republican leaders have failed to achieve. And while the details on any future policies have yet to be hashed out, we do believe that the global pandemic presents an opportunity for President Trump to eventually rollout a plan for both infrastructure and healthcare to help address the economic and public health crisis stemming from COVID-19. A successful repeal might put health-care providers under pressure, given a higher percentage of uninsured population.

Investment implications: Any future infrastructure bill may be less pressing. However, recent focuses on rural broad-band may offer clues to what a potential package may deliver. Lastly, President Trump may feel emboldened to push again to repeal Obamacare, this time via a ruling that it is unconstitutional at the Supreme Court.

Trump and foreign relations: bilateralism over multilateralism. President Trump has shown what his “America First” policy means in regards to trade and multilateralism. His administration quickly followed through with his campaign promise to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), while also redrafting long standing trade agreements among the neighbouring countries in NAFTA, and across the pacific with China. Looking ahead, we should anticipate a continuation of these trends in his second term as his administration will likely continue to favour bilateralism and an “America First” stance on the global stage. Out of all of the policies put forth by the 45th president, we have seen how trade disputes have had a tendency to present downside risks to investors, sometimes in surprising ways as the Sino-U.S. relationship may continue to see some turbulence, but a complete re-escalation of the trade tensions seen over the last few years should be avoided. Negotiations could be centred on intellectual property (IP) protection and addressing the disagreements on 5G network expansion. Lastly, the Trump administration’s approach of favouring bilateral deals should also continue in his second term.

Investment implications: Reviewing global trade agreements will likely remain the Trump administration’s favourite lever to pull in dealing with foreign adversaries, and even allies. The focus should continue to depend on bilateral agreements, such as phase 2 trade deal with China.

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Joe Biden: an Obama 2.0 or something more?

Biden and healthcare: change, if not immediately. Biden’s proposed polices have shown that he is open to change or evolve with the Democrat consensus’ progressive agenda. For example, although he doesn’t support a healthcare-for-all bill, he does now support a public option that could ultimately crowd out the private sector’s dominance in the industry – but only at a gradual pace. This type of legislation would likely lead to a dramatic shift on how Americans receive health care over the long-term, but the changes would likely come at a more gradual pace in comparison to the more progressive options.

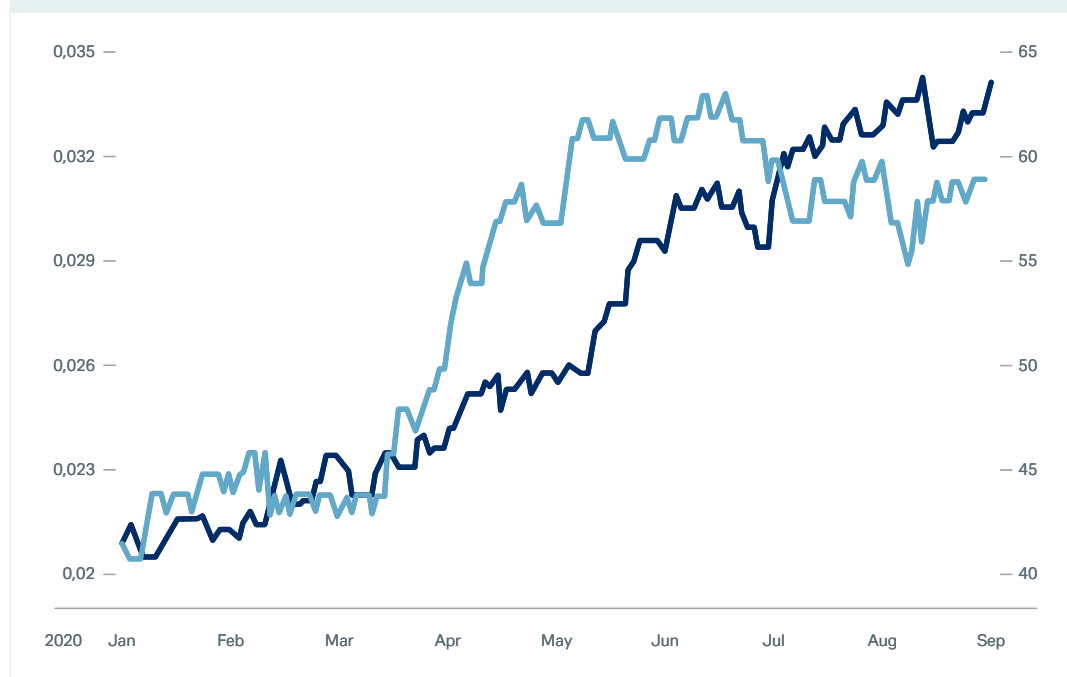
Investment implications: Reform likely to happen sooner rather than later, draft legislative plans not clear enough yet to be sure of sector implications. Nevertheless, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) did positively impact healthcare providers (such as hospitals) in a broad scope, and bolstering this legislation would likely provide the same dynamic. A public option could put the health insurance industry at a disadvantage.

Biden and climate change: serious intentions. Climate change also remains a top issue for most of the Democratic cohorts. Mr. Biden’s initial reaction to the Green New Deal could be described as “lukewarm”, at best. But as he rose to being the presumptive nominee, the former VP has since proposed a more aggressive USD2 trillion infrastructure bill which will focus on tackling climate change through various green energy infrastructure projects. We have already seen how the rise in Biden’s polling earlier in the summer has coincided with the shares of clean energy companies outperforming the broader index (shown below). Additionally, he has pledged to make the U.S. carbon neutral by 2050, while also rejoining the Paris Climate Accord. Some of the environmental regulations that have since been rolled back during the Trump presidency are likely to be reversed as well.

Investment implications: The USD2 trillion fiscal package might have seemed too ambitious in a pre-coronavirus world. However, these large-scale infrastructure projects are now centred on the “Build, Back, Better” campaign slogan, which if enacted, should provide a tailwind for companies in the materials and industrials sectors.

Figure 4: Wilderhill Clean Energy Index (ECO) vs. S&P 500 and Mr. Biden’s implied election probability

Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Predictit.org, Deutsche Bank AG. Data as of September 10, 2020.



● Clean Energy Index/S&P 500 (price ratio, left) ● Joe Biden's implied election probability

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Biden and environmental and antitrust regulation: expect change. We could see a rollback on recently-issued leases on offshore drilling and federal lands. The near-term impact on oil prices would be minimal, with no real worries about diminishing supply. But in the long-term, one could see a future where these dynamics are flipped and the increased restrictions could ultimately cause a boost to oil prices. Given severe market concentration, we expect more antitrust discussions. These are likely to continue to be centred on the biggest technology companies, but may also set a broader screen in reviewing the competitive dynamics of other industries. Investors should pay close attention to the cabinet officials of a Biden administration to better gauge exactly how dramatic these anti-trust regulations might be. Leadership coming from the more progressive wing of the party may likely lead to some more impactful legislation for the larger corporations.













Investment implications: Energy and financial sectors may see the largest regulatory retaliation under Biden. On the competition front, large infotech companies and other sectors such as healthcare, could come under scrutiny.

Biden and taxation: tax cut reversals and other measures. The Biden Presidency would likely introduce a more hawkish corporate tax policy regime. The proposed agenda includes a partial reversal of the corporate tax cuts provided by the Trump Administration, increasing the rate from 21% to 28% (see discussion of these tax cuts above). Figure 5 shows how the Health Care and Technology sectors saw the biggest percentage point decrease in their effective tax rates from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and could therefore be relatively hard hit by any Biden corporate tax increase.

Figure 5: Healthcare and Tech tax cuts stand out – could they be reversed under a Biden presidency?

Source: Ned Davis Research, Deutsche Bank Research. Data as of September 10, 2020.

S&P 500 sector median effective tax rates pre- and post-2018 tax cuts

Sector	2017 (%)	2019 (%)	% Pt Change	Sector	2017 (%)	2019 (%)	% Pt Change
 Healthcare	34.5	15.4	-19.2	 S&P 500	27.8	18.9	-8.9
 Information Technologies	32.0	14.5	-17.5	 Consumer Staples	27.5	20.8	-6.6
 Utilities	28.8	14.1	-14.8	 Financials	25.3	20.3	-5.0
 Materials	30.3	17.4	-12.9	 Real Estate	0.7	1.2	0.5
 Consumer Discretionary	32.0	22.3	-9.7	 Energy	-3.4	23.1	26.5
 Industrials	30.6	21.2	-9.4	 Communication Services	-97.2	15.0	112.2

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When accounting for this change in our 2022 earnings per share (EPS) forecast, we anticipate that Biden's tax plan (along with extra regulation) would likely decrease earnings for the S&P 500 overall by USD10 per share (or a 5.5% decrease on the current projection without any tax code changes). A reduction in the NTM price/earnings (P/E) ratio could also limit S&P 500 gains. Our current 12-month S&P 500 forecast of 3,300 is calculated by giving an equal probability to both Trump and Biden wins and averaging out EPS and PE assumptions.

In addition to corporate tax increases, the Biden agenda includes individual tax increases as well, specifically on top earners. So far, the Biden campaign has openly committed to restoring the top-income tax bracket to 39.6%, as well as, increasing the capital gains rates to ordinary income tax rates on individuals earning more than USD1mn per year.

The Democratic Party has become more open to discussions on taxing wealth, this is another area on where the Biden Campaign has shown willingness to listen to the more progressive wing. Although the final details of a wealth tax are unspecified, we should anticipate further discussions if elected.

Investment implications: A reversal in corporate taxes may disproportionately impact the top gainers under the TCJA, with the income tax rate for corporations increasing from 21-28%. The top individual rates may revert back to 39.6%, capital gains might be taxed at ordinary rates for top earners, and the step-up in cost basis adjustments for estates may likely be terminated.

Biden and foreign relations: reconciliation, but not complete relief. Under a Biden presidency, we would anticipate a push for reconciliation with NATO and the EU allies. This shift in relations would also likely carry over into the trade issues, such as a refocus to a more multilateral approach to challenging China on writing new trade rules and human rights disputes. From a policy perspective this could include a reincarnated Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) deal. But, overall, this "tough on China" approach will likely continue under a Biden or Trump presidency. Another area of focus of multilateralism may likely show up in Middle East policy, with the Biden administration likely to show eagerness to rejoining the Iranian nuclear deal that his former boss helped broker. All in all, a Biden Presidency could be seen as an Obama 2.0 world of foreign relations.

Investment implications: Future trade negotiations should shift to a more multilateral effort, but investors may not find complete relief from U.S. - China tensions.

04

Election run-up and possible outcomes

Key issues. The evolution of the coronavirus pandemic, economic recovery, and tensions surrounding social issues have seen to be impacting polling data over the past few months, and will continue to do so until election day.

- 01 Coronavirus pandemic:** Polls continue to suggest that most respondents feel that Joe Biden would be better at tackling the global pandemic. However, the pandemic still leaves some opportunities for President Trump, particularly if one of the U.S. organizations delivers an effective vaccine by Election Day, and granted that this can be quickly rolled out.
- 02 The economic recovery:** President Trump still feels that the voting public should judge his presidency by the economic progress that was made up until the virus pandemic hit – and most Americans surveyed still believe that President Trump would be better at helping restart the economic engine that just recently finished a record-long expansion.
- 03 Social issues:** Polling patterns here are more nuanced. While most Americans do seem to prefer President Trump’s “Law and order” approach on crime, Mr. Biden appears to be preferred in regards to handling other “hot button” issues like race relations and unifying the country.

A common theme of 2020 has been that a lot can change over a short period of time. We believe that a resurgence of infection numbers, a deterioration in the economic recovery, or an unforeseen incident sparking more social tension could boost Biden’s chances. Conversely, further improvements on the virus front, continued upside surprises in the economic data, and/or an upwards blip in violence or crime would benefit President Trump.

Possible outcomes. As we highlighted above, the presidential race is just one of three factors which will be key to the final outcome. Which party ultimately controls the House of Representatives, and the Senate, and the several of multiple combinations are also critical.

We think that there is a high probability that the House of Representatives remains under the Democratic Party’s control. But the Senate remains a very close-call: at present, we believe that there is a slightly higher chance that the Republicans will hold the Senate.

Our core scenario is that Mr. Biden wins the presidency come November. History suggests that sitting presidents find it very difficult to get re-elected during recessions. However, the narrowing of recent polls - especially in the hard fought battle ground states – indicates that this is not a foregone conclusion.

The coronavirus pandemic, economic recovery and social issues will continue to impact polling data – and a lot can change over a short period.

Figure 6: Recent recessions make reelection difficult

Source: Bruce Melhman, Strategas, Deutsche Bank AG. Data as of September 2020.

	President	Re-elected
No recession two years before re-election	Obama	✓
	Bush II	✓
	Clinton	✓
	Reagan	✓
	Nixon	✓
	LBJ	✓
	Eisenhower	✓
	Truman	✓
	FDR	✓
	FDR	✓
	FDR	✓
Wilson	✓	
Recession two years before re-election	Bush I	✗
	Carter	✗
	Ford	✗
	Hoover	✗
	Coolidge	✓
	Taft	✗

There is a real possibility of a contested result, particularly as the race tightens in the midst of a global pandemic, which will likely result in a large number of absentee votes. The obvious point of comparison here is the 2000 election, in which the narrow margin of a key swing state spawned a series of controversies which ultimately ended in a Supreme Court decision. Some option-based market data suggests that markets could experience a bout of increased volatility around the big day. If the polls remain tight up to the eve of the election, then the term structure of the VIX index should continue to reflect this tail risk scenario.

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Portfolio implications

In the end, whether we have a contested election or a decisive outcome, a Democratic victory or a second Trump term, political gridlock or a clear-party sweep, equity markets have always shown resilience in the longer-term.

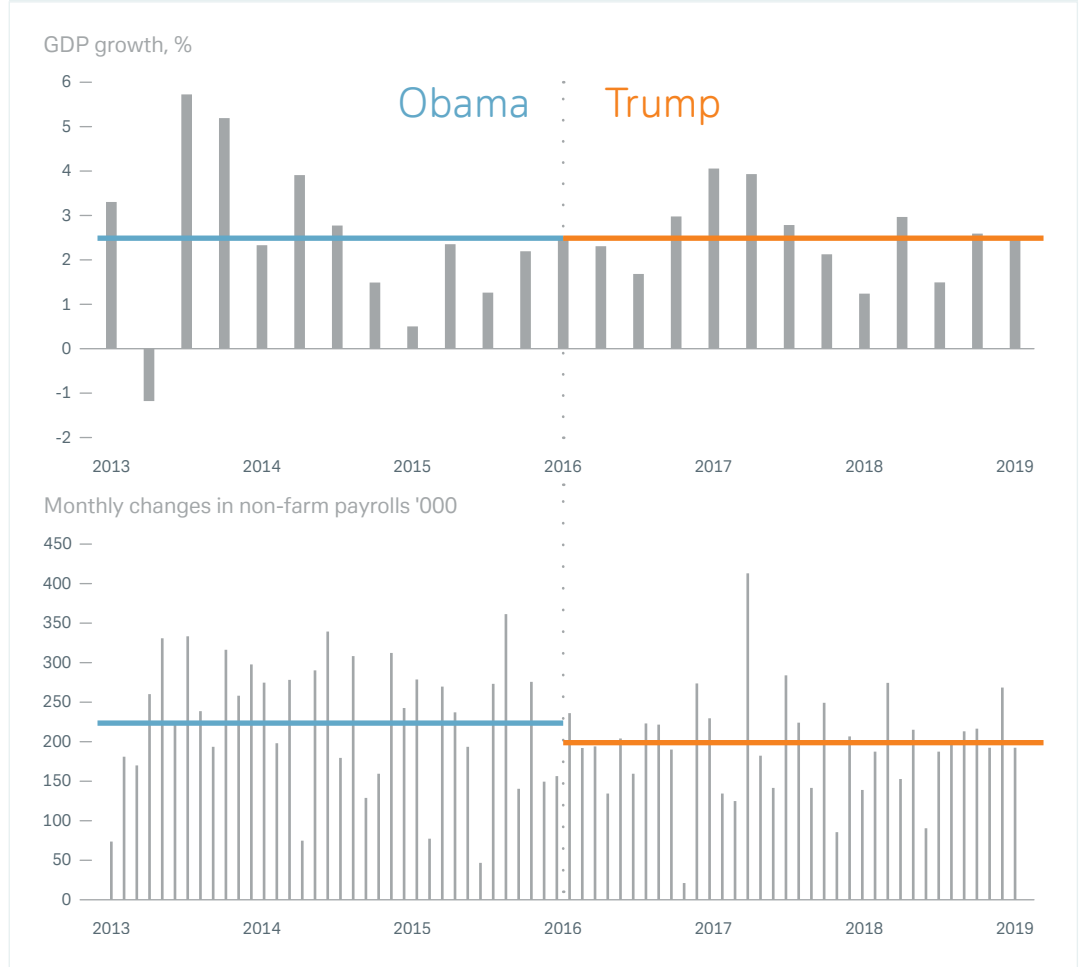
In the shorter term, however, predicting exactly how markets react to elections and policy changes can be difficult. Markets are influenced to varying degrees by many changing factors – such as consensus expectations, market participants' psyche and expectations around global central banks – just to name a few. It is quite common for individuals to believe that politics can have more influence on the economy and markets than what the empirical data shows. There are two obvious examples of this.

Growth: When analysing consumer sentiment data trends, respondents who self-identify with a political party perceived the current state of the U.S. economy to be better or worse than the empirical data suggests. This relationship appears to be solely dependent on if their party of choice is in power. In reality, GDP growth rates under President Obama and President Trump were very similar despite the two presidents taking very different approaches on taxes and regulation. Labour market trends were not too dissimilar either.

Individuals who self-identify with a political party tend to perceive the current state of the economy to be better or worse than the empirical data suggests. In reality, GDP growth rates and labour market trends were very similar under the last two Presidents.

Figure 7: GDP growth and employment growth under Trump (to end 2019) and Obama presidencies

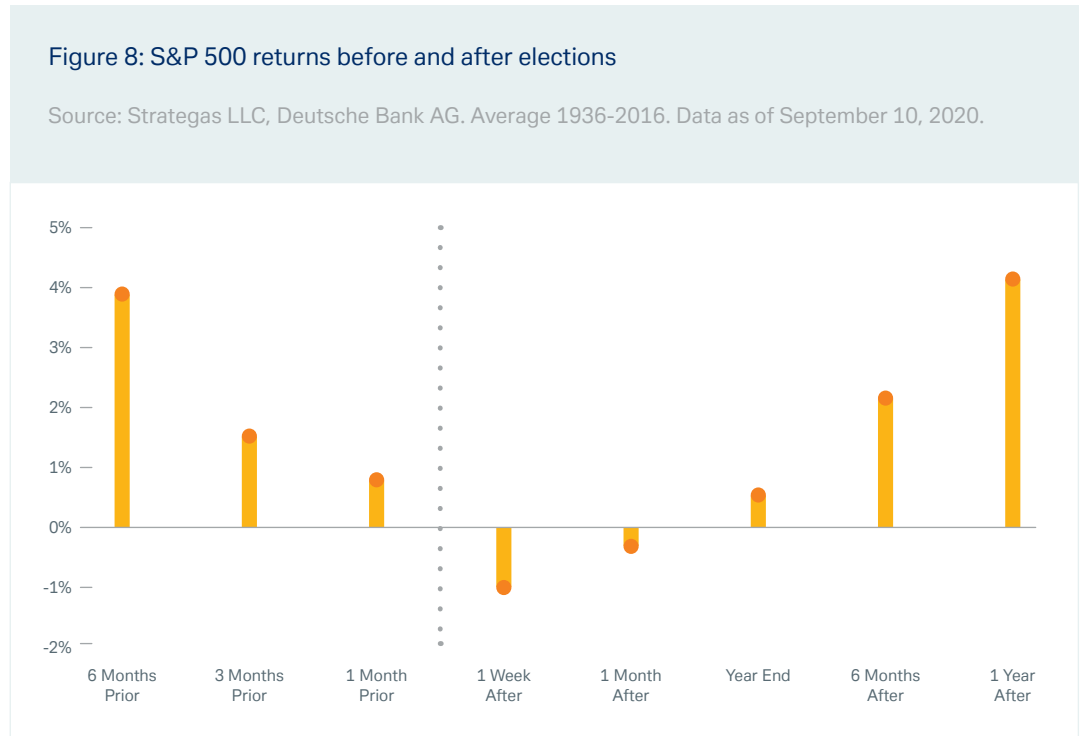
Source: Bloomberg Finance L.P., Deutsche Bank AG. Data runs until end-2019 to exclude effects of coronavirus pandemic. Data as of September 10, 2020.



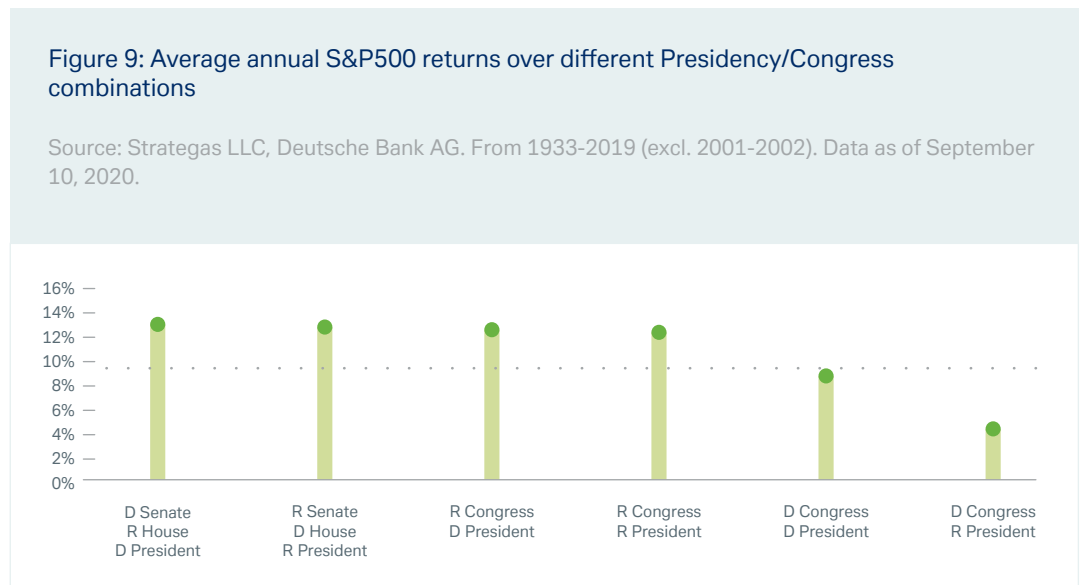
● ● Horizontal lines represent average rates for periods shown

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Equity markets: Markets have tended to show strong performance during election years, regardless on which party wins. And despite the 2020 election occurring during some extraordinary circumstances (a global pandemic and associated recession), market gains still look possible now.



In fact, even looking beyond only election years, the U.S. stock market does not seem to be driven by party affiliation. Instead, the simple timing of the business cycle seems to be the main determinant. For example, stock markets fared poorly during George W. Bush’s presidency, but he assumed office during the bursting of dot-com bubble and then finished his second-term in the middle of the global financial crisis. Looking at the chart below, the S&P 500 has increased by an annual average of 9.5% across all the different combinations of Congress and the Presidency over the period 1933-2019.



● Average annual S&P500 performance ● Weighted average

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That being said, we do anticipate that market volatility is likely to pick up as we approach the November election. It is also possible that this increase in volatility could persist for some months even after the official results are determined, especially in the event of a contested election. However, the tradition of a relief rally should eventually manifest into a fruitful performance for risky assets.

The election's policy implications may also impact monetary policy and longer-term interest rates that are paramount in driving **fixed income and credit markets**. As regards the former, President Trump has set himself apart from his more recent predecessors by showing a willingness to openly criticize his self-appointed Federal Reserve Chair, Jerome Powell. This criticism seems to stem from the rate hikes that were executed through the 2017-18 period. We anticipate that this dynamic is likely to be less prominent going forward due to the recession caused by the global pandemic. And while President Trump has shown an eagerness to replace Jerome Powell with a more permanently dovish figure, the new policy framework of a more flexible inflation target combined with the lack of inflationary forces stemming from the COVID-19 recession may likely leave this to be a less pressing issue for the next president, whoever it turns out to be. If we were to assume a Biden victory, monetary policymakers would likely fall out of the President's cross-hairs, as the former vice president would likely refrain from frequently commenting on the central bank's actions.

The implications of the presidential election outcome for the fixed income markets should therefore be less pronounced. The current macroeconomic backdrop should continue to keep the Fed against raising interest rates, and its sizable asset purchases of Treasury bonds and corporate credit will likely underpin all fixed income assets. Long-term rates are likely to be driven by the lack of growth and inflationary forces stemming from a stodgy recovery, and not the election outcome. Note however that a Biden presidency (along with a Democratic sweep of both houses of Congress) would increase the chances of future fiscal policies manifesting in a larger infrastructure bill. Such stimulus, resulting in additional government borrowing, has typically put upward pressure on longer-term rates via inflation.

In **FX**, the detailed policy implications of a Trump or Biden presidency are likely to take the back-seat to the global macroeconomic and safe-haven flow dynamics that have been driving the greenback's valuation throughout much of this economic and virus uncertainty. The pandemic's impact on global trade and the impact of geopolitical uncertainties (e.g. Brexit) create pricing volatility via the JPY, EUR and GBP crosses. Past presidents have often had a bias towards favouring a weaker USD to help boost exports and combat anti-competitive pricing, and this scenario should be no exception.

In summary, with stock markets in 2020 showing exactly how resilient the asset class can be, and the Fed doing everything in its power to increase liquidity, then it should not matter too much who is occupying the sandstone building at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave for a longer-term investor. Such political events can heighten market fears and thus lead to emotional biases: working around a long-term strategic asset allocation remains the best way to navigate them.

Glossary

Dodd-Frank refers to the 2010 legislation intended to regulate the U.S. financial sector in the wake of the global financial crisis. Parts of the legislation were reversed in 2018.

Earnings per share (EPS) are calculated as a companies' net income minus dividends of preferred stock all divided by the total number of shares outstanding.

The **Federal Reserve (Fed)** is the central bank of the United States. Its **Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC)** meets to determine interest rate policy.

Price/earnings (P/E) ratios measure a company's current share price relative to its per-share earnings. In this context, NTM refers to next twelve months' earnings.

The **S&P 500 Index** includes 500 leading U.S. companies capturing approximately 80% coverage of available U.S. market capitalization.

Share buybacks are purchases by a company of shares on the open market, undertaken for a variety of reasons.

A **strategic asset allocation** process involves setting preferred allocations for asset classes on a medium to long-term time horizon.

The **Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP)** is a planned trade agreement between Pacific Rim countries.

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