STORY 1 OF 5 · GROUPS · 2.5D · MIDTERMS 2026

WEIGHT TRANSFER

Young and Hispanic voters moved furthest. The national balance moved mostly because white voters, men and people in their 30s and 40s moved, because there are more of them.

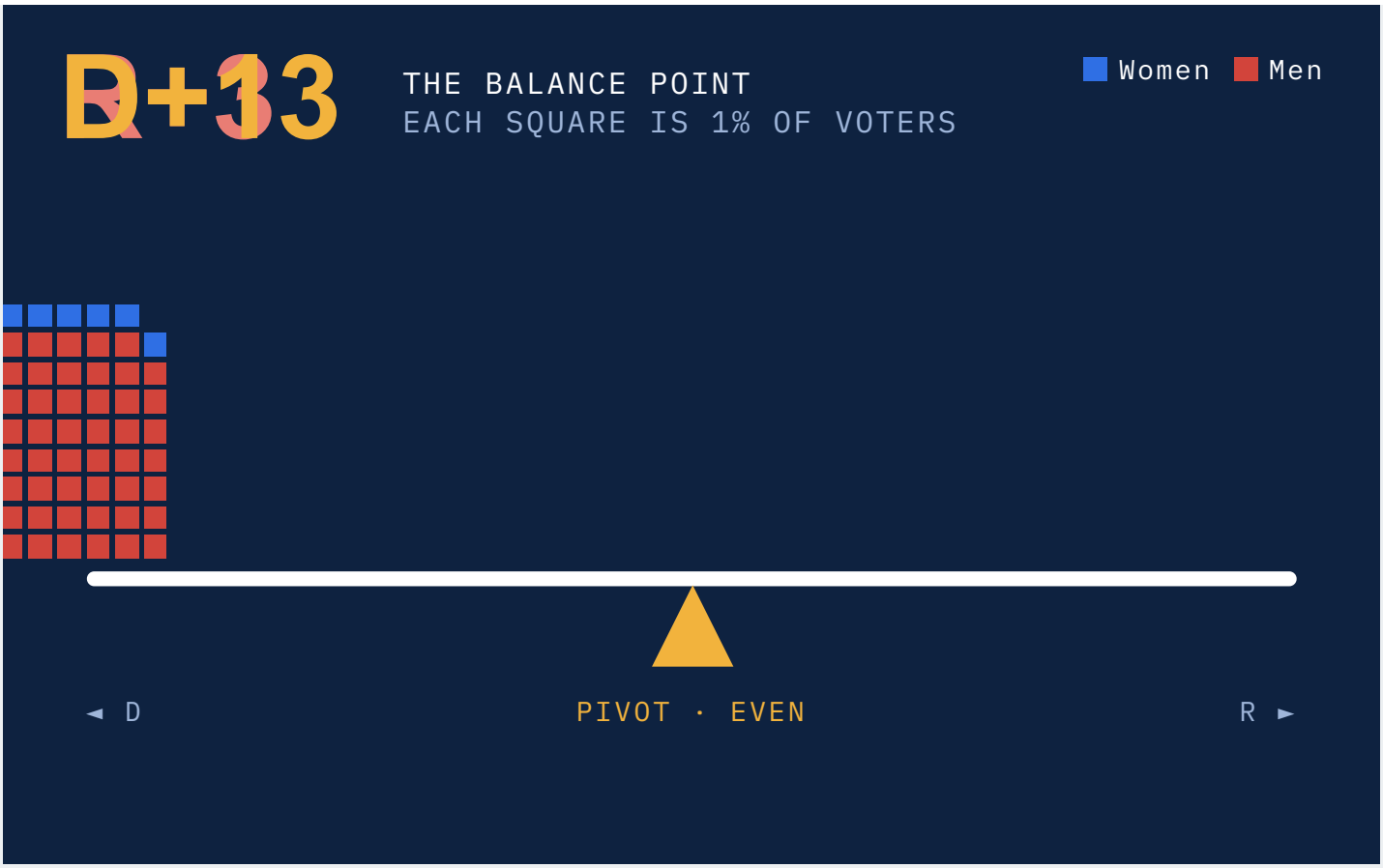
By the politic.design data desk · 5 Nov 2026, updated 6 Nov 2026 · Preliminary counts

OPEN DATA PDF Markdown JSON

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AI-generated image (Google Gemini) for illustration. Not a photograph of a real event or of any real person.



The story in one picture. Every unit is a real thing; the caption under each scene says what.

The national margin is a balance point. Put every group on a ruler at its margin, give each a weight equal to its share of voters, and the point where the ruler balances is the country's margin. That is the whole chart. Between 2024 and this week every weight slid left, and the balance point moved about 15 points, from R+2 to D+13.

Seen that way, the size of a swing and its effect come apart. Under-30s moved 33 points but carry a ninth of the weight, so they pushed the balance about 3.6 points. White voters moved 12 points, but at 73% of the electorate that pushed it nearly 9. Men moved the balance more than women (8.5 points against 6.9), and voters aged 30 to 44 more than any other age group.

- Men went from about R+16 in 2024 to D+2: an 18-point move, the biggest of any large group.
- Under-30s: D+8 to D+41. Hispanic voters: D+11 to D+40, undoing all of Trump's 2024 gain.

- Black voters moved 10 points back, to about D+83. White voters moved 12, from R+16 to R+4.
- 65-plus barely moved (6 points) and sits almost exactly on the national balance of 2024.

DATA

Group margins for 2020 and 2024 (presidential) and 2026 (House) as published in the reference chart, read to about a point. Weights are 2026 shares from the NBC News/SSRS exit poll.

KEY FINDING

"Under-30s swung 33 points, but white voters moved the national balance nearly three times as far."

HOW SWINGS ARE USUALLY DRAWN, AND WHAT EACH ONE LEAVES OUT

SHIFT ARROWS ON MAPS

The wind maps newspapers draw by county. They show direction and size by place, but a near-empty county gets as long an arrow as a city.

HAIRPINS, DUMBBELLS, ARROW DOT PLOTS

Good for change by group. Every group looks equally heavy, so a group of 4% reads like one of 73%.

SLOPEGRAPHS

Clear for two moments and a few lines; tangled past six groups or three elections.

SWINGOMETERS

The BBC's dial, and the what-if simulators from Cook and FiveThirtyEight. One national number, or a hypothetical, not what happened.

VOTER-FLOW DIAGRAMS

The Sankey charts of German and French election nights. They show who switched, but need panel data the US rarely has.

OURS: WEIGHT TRANSFER

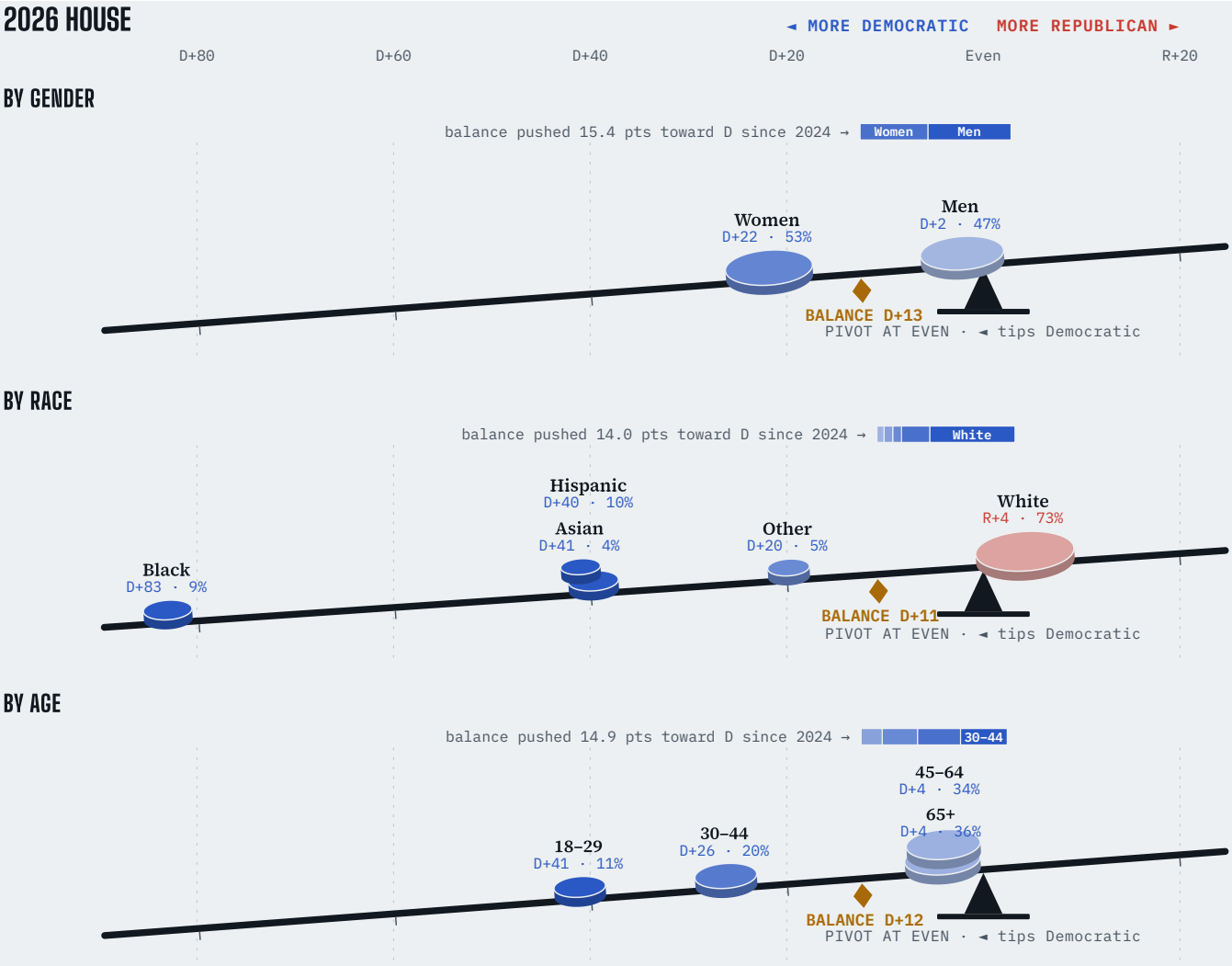
Shows how far each group moved and how much that moved the country, on one ruler, with the national margin as the balance point. The arithmetic is exact: the balance is the share-weighted average.

THE TIPPING SCALE

IN SHORT A see-saw with its pivot at a tied vote. Each group is a weight: bigger groups weigh more, and groups sitting far from the middle press harder, the way a child at the end of a see-saw does. The beam tips toward the party the country chose; the amber diamond is where it would balance. Hover or tap a weight.

2020	2024	2026	Replay the shift	Drop the weights

2026 HOUSE



GROUP	2020 PRES.	2024 PRES.	2026 HOUSE	SWING	WEIGHT
All voters	D+4	R+2	D+13	D+15	100%

PUSHED BALANCE

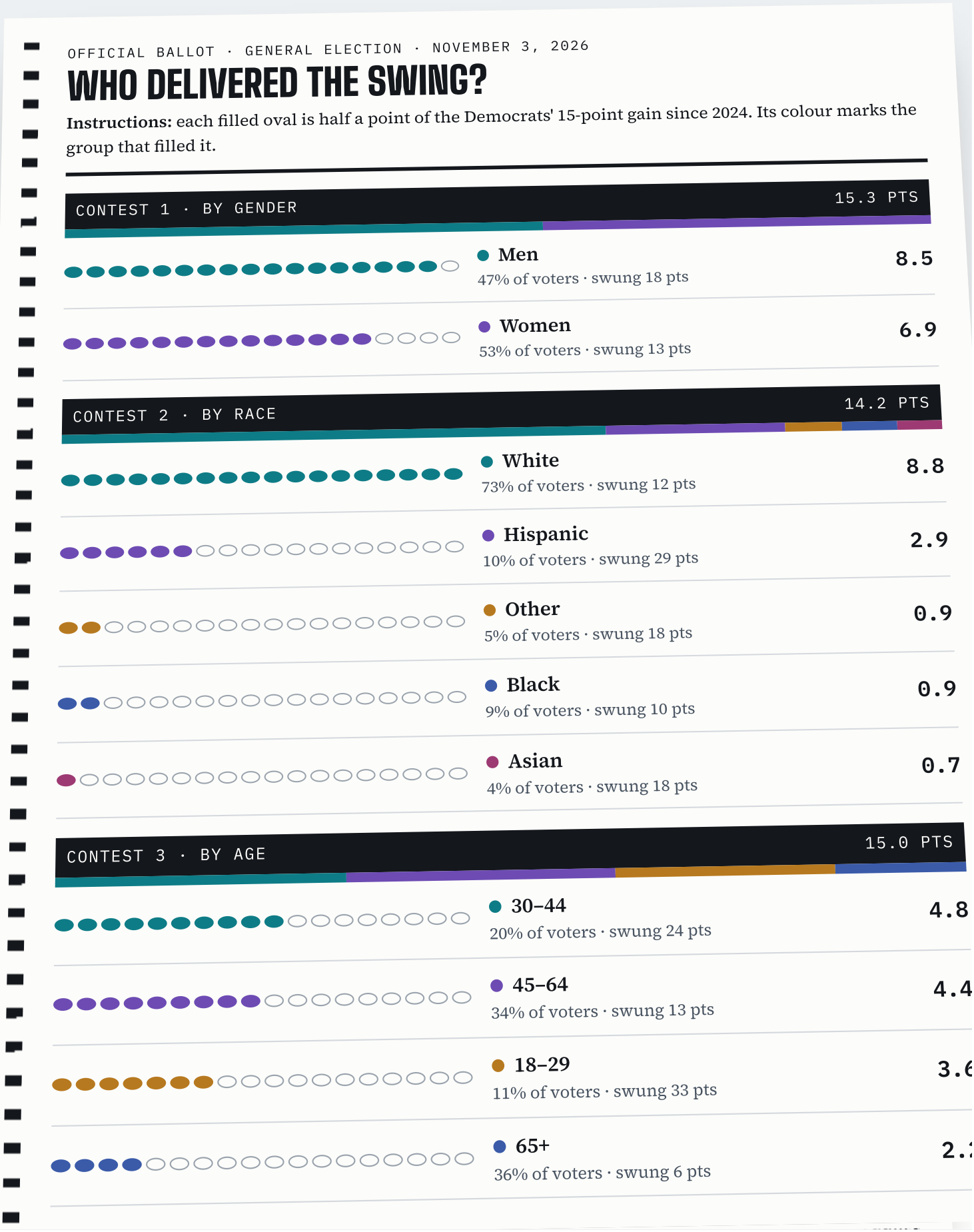
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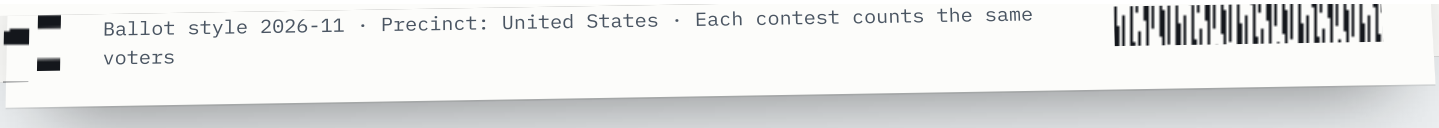
Margins are presidential for 2020 and 2024 and House for 2026, read from the reference chart to about a point. Weights hold the 2026 electorate fixed, so each beam's balance point is the share-weighted average of its groups (D+11 to D+13 in 2026, against about D+13 measured), and the coloured bar segments add up exactly to how far it moved. The tilt is drawn from each beam's turning force around Even (share × margin), capped at 6 degrees.

THE BALLOT: WHO FILLED IN THE 15 POINTS

IN SHORT The Democrats' gain since 2024, counted as filled bubbles. Each bubble is half a point of the national margin, and

its colour is the group that filled it. A long row is a group that moved the country, not just one that moved a lot.





Each row is the group's swing since 2024 multiplied by its share of 2026 voters, in points of national margin, rounded to the nearest half point. Gender, race and age slice the same voters three ways, so each contest adds up to the whole swing on its own (15.4, 14.2 and 15.0 points; the gaps are rounding and changes in who turned out).

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