

THE WHITE HOUSE

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INSIDE THE NUMBERS

The Economy

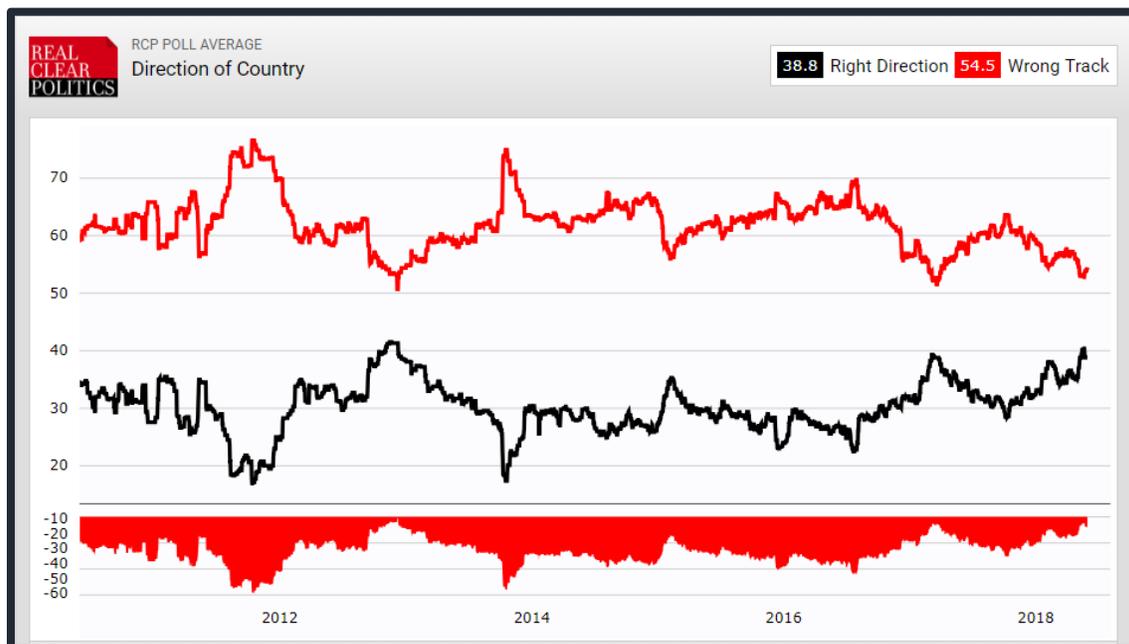
Today, the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) released its monthly Employment Situation Report showing that nonfarm payroll employment rose by 223,000 jobs in May, exceeding what forecasters expected. **The nation's unemployment rate is down to 3.8%, an 18-year low.** The U.S. economy continues its streak of having the longest, consecutive positive monthly job numbers, with employment growth averaging 207,000 jobs per month in 2018 – faster than the gains in both 2016 and 2017. **The economy has added 3.4 million jobs since President Trump was elected.**

Last month's jobs numbers were so impressive *The New York Times* ran a headline today stating, "We Ran Out of Words to Describe How Good the Jobs Numbers Are"!

Direction of Country

One of the most important data points to monitor is the polling question: "Do you feel the country is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track?", which is traditionally decisively pessimistic.

But, in recent weeks – particularly following the enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 in December and the new tax withholding tables released in January – Americans' outlook for the country has trended in a consistently positive direction. Last week, the Real Clear Politics' right direction average eclipsed 40% for the first time in nearly 6 years, dating back to 2012.



THE LANDSCAPE

Republicans currently hold a 51-49 advantage in the Senate and a 235-193 advantage in the House. 35 Senate seats will be contested this November – 26 held by Democrats or Independents and 9 by Republicans. All 435 House seats are up for election this year.

In 35 out of the 38 midterm elections since the end of the Civil War, the sitting President's party has lost House seats – the exceptions being 1934 (Great Depression Era/Roosevelt), 1998 (onset of impeachment proceedings/Clinton) and 2002 (post-September 11th/Bush). Since 1913, when the 17th Amendment was adopted (and the direct election of Senators began), the President's party has lost seats in 19 of 26 elections.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Ohio

President Trump recently hosted a roundtable in **Cleveland, Ohio**, promoting the positive effects of the President's enactment of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

President Trump and U.S. Representative **Jim Renacci**, a member of the House Ways and Means Committee (the committee of jurisdiction), listened to stories from families and employees directly impacted by the TCJA, including Sharlene Thornton.

Sharlene – who is legally disabled – wrote a letter to President Trump on February 23, 2018, thanking him for his enactment of the TCJA, which raised her husband's bi-weekly pay by \$300.

President Trump thanked U.S. Representative Renacci for his steadfast leadership in helping to attain passage of the landmark tax cut.



President Trump, U.S. Representative Jim Renacci, and Sharlene Thornton in Ohio

New York

President Trump hosted a roundtable discussion in **Nassau County, New York** on existing immigration loopholes that allow Unaccompanied Alien Minors (UAM) to remain in the country. Joining President Trump at the roundtable were U.S. Representatives **Dan Donovan**, **Lee Zeldin** and **Peter King**, law enforcement officials, and families affected by existing immigration loopholes, especially those that lead UAMs to join violent gangs like MS-13.

President Trump listened to painful stories from Evelyn Rodriguez, Freddy Cuevas, Elizabeth Alvarado and Robert Mickens, the parents of Kayla Cuevas and Nisa Mickens. Kayla and Nisa were close friends since elementary school, but in September 2016, the two girls were chased down and brutally murdered by members of MS-13.



President Trump comforts Evelyn Rodriguez and Freddy Cuevas, the parents of slain daughter Kayla Cuevas

California (Sanctuary Cities)

President Trump hosted a roundtable at The White House to highlight the grassroots opposition to SB-54, California Governor Jerry Brown's "sanctuary state" legislation.

Joining President Trump at the roundtable were Attorney General **Jeff Sessions**, Secretary of Homeland Security **Kirstjen Nielsen**, House Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy**, and local representatives and law enforcement officials that have led the opposition to SB-54, including Fresno County Sheriff **Margaret Mims**, who highlighted the difficult task she faces when forced to release violent criminals, including MS-13 gang members, back into her community.



President Trump listens to local officials who are leading the opposition to California Governor Jerry Brown's "sanctuary state" legislation.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 7 vacancies in the U.S. House of Representatives; however, only 2 more Special Elections will be held prior to this year's General Election on November 6, 2018.

Texas' 27th Congressional District will host a Special Election on **June 30, 2018**. All candidates – regardless of party – will run on the same ballot. Should no candidate earn a majority on June 30, the top two candidates from the initial vote will advance to a September runoff, to be scheduled at a later date.

Following Texas, **Ohio's 12th Congressional District** will host a Special Election on **August 7, 2018**. Four candidates will appear on the Special Election ballot: Republican nominee **Troy Balderson**, Democrat nominee **Danny O'Connor**, Green nominee **Joe Manchik**, and Libertarian nominee **Jonathan Veley**.

These 2 Special Elections will be the 10th and 11th Special Elections of the 115th Congress.