

**CONFIDENTIAL – DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**  
**AAO-HNS State Tracker Report**  
**Conference Call – December 14, 2016**

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November 2016 Election Recap:

- Republicans flipped 138 seats, while Democrats flipped 95 seats.
- Republicans gained majorities in the Iowa State Senate, Kentucky House of Representatives, and Minnesota State Senate.
- The GOP gained two additional trifectas: Iowa and Kentucky. (Trifectas are when a single party controls both chambers of the Legislature plus the Governor's seat.)
- Democrats flipped the Nevada State Senate, Nevada State Assembly (broke GOP trifecta in NV), and New Mexico House of Representatives.
- **Post-election: GOP trifectas: 25. Democrat trifectas: 6.**
- Notable holdout results: Delaware (State Sen. Bethany Hall-Long (D) won the lieutenant governor's race. Her competitive Senate seat will be decided by special election – date not yet set.)
- Many healthcare initiatives on the ballot this year:
  - California Proposition 52, Continued Hospital Fee Revenue Dedicated to Medi-Cal Unless Voters Approve Changes: Approved
  - California Proposition 61, Drug Price Standards: Rejected
  - Colorado Creation of ColoradoCare System, Amendment 69: Rejected
  - Nevada Medical Equipment Sales Tax Exemption, Question 4: Approved
  - Washington Taxation of Stand-Alone Dental Plans, Advisory Vote 14: Approved
- Overall, each party lost 3 chambers and gained 3 chambers.

Tying Up Loose Ends – Closing out the 2016 State Legislative Session:

- Possible New York special session before January. Technically, anything can be passed in a special session. Deadline is December 31, 2016.
- NY and NJ Epi Pen bills: The Academy submitted a letter of opposition to NJ AB 4094 and have been in touch with the sponsor. To date, the bill hasn't moved from its Senate Committee.

Looking Forward – 2017 State Legislative Session:

- At some point, all states will be in session in 2017, including Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, and Texas who were not in session in 2016.
- AAO-HNS state priorities remain:
  - Scope of Practice
  - Hearing Aid Services
  - Medical Liability Reform
  - Tobacco Use and Smoking Cessation
  - Truth in Advertising
  - Taxes on Medical Procedures
  - In-Office Physician Compounding
- Other "hot" healthcare topics for 2017: Decriminalization/medical usage of marijuana and Medicaid block grants/ACA repeal efforts.