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## Medicaid Expansion On Track to Grow After Midterms

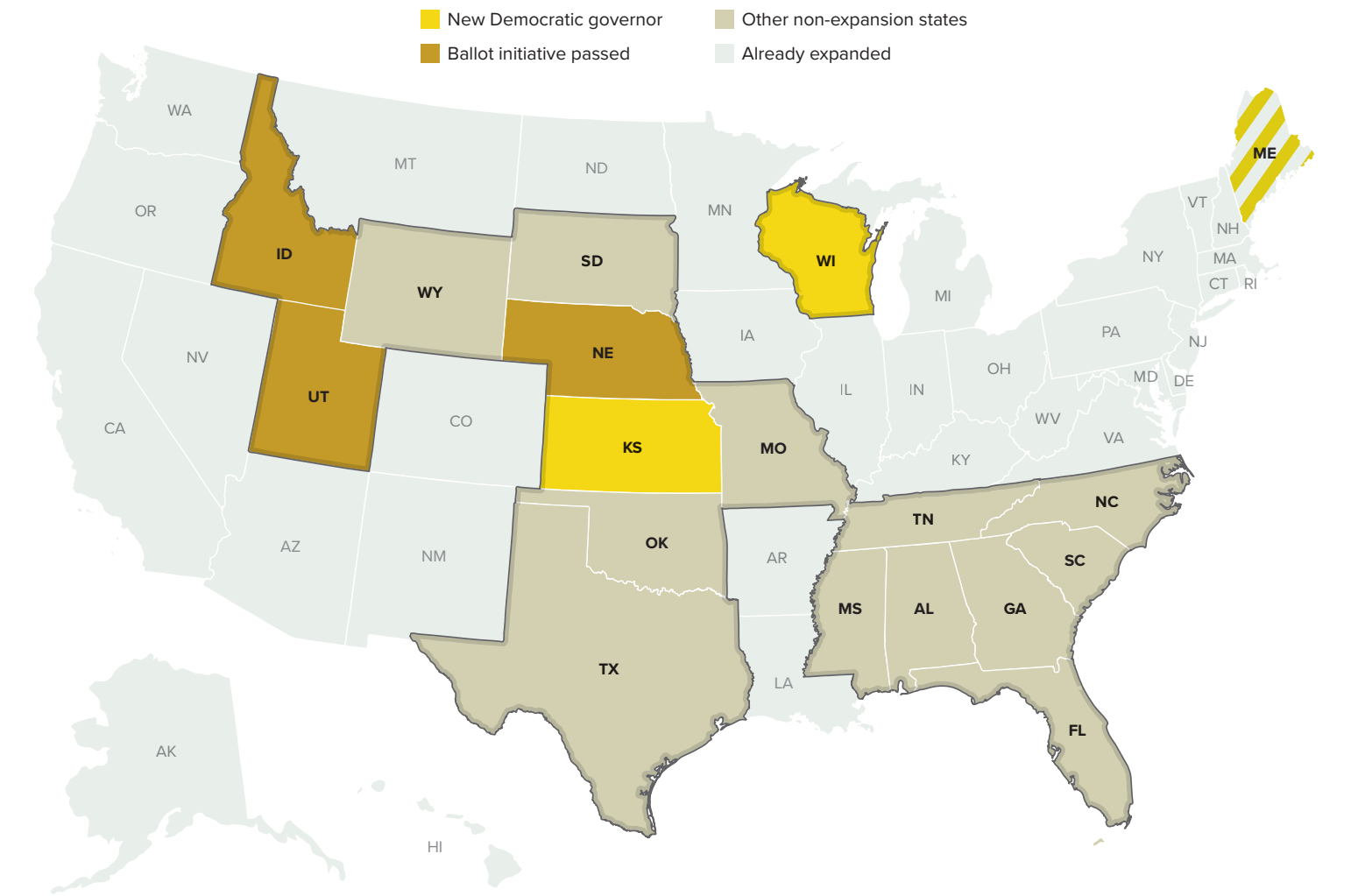
Following the midterm elections, the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion will likely be implemented in several states that have so far resisted doing so. More than 300,000 uninsured adults could gain coverage as a result.

In Idaho, Utah and Nebraska, voters approved ballot initiatives calling for expansion. A fourth initiative in Montana, which would have guaranteed funding for the state’s ongoing expansion by hiking tobacco taxes, narrowly failed.







In Kansas and Wisconsin, newly elected Democratic governors have pledged to make expansion a priority. Democratic candidates fell short in other non-expansion states such as South Dakota, Oklahoma and Florida. And in Maine, a newly elected Democratic governor is set to implement the expansion approved by the state’s voters in a 2017 ballot referendum.

In Georgia, the governor’s race is too close to call, but the Republican candidate is leading in the most recent count.

2018 midterm election results that could affect Medicaid expansion



Key opportunities for Medicaid expansion based on 2018 midterm election results

STATE	KEY RESULT	CONTROL OF STATE GOVERNMENT	POTENTIAL ENROLLMENT	NOTES ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR EXPANSION
Idaho	 Passed ballot initiative	Fully Republican	43K	The ballot initiative passed with more than 60 percent of the vote, and the incoming Gov. Brad Little (R) has previously said he will work work with the Republican-held legislature to expand Medicaid if the initiative succeeds.
Kansas	 New Democratic governor	Democratic governor, Republican legislature	79K	Expansion legislation passed in 2017 but was vetoed by the then-GOP governor. With a new Democratic governor set to take office, the GOP head of the state House’s health committee says expansion is “a foregone conclusion.”
Maine	 New Democratic governor	Fully Democratic	48K	Maine’s incoming Gov. Janet Mills (D) says she plans to implement the voter-approved expansion using existing state funds when she takes office in January. The sitting GOP governor has been sued for refusing to do so.
Nebraska	 Passed ballot initiative	Fully Republican	34K	The initiative narrowly passed with 53 percent of the vote. Depsite campaigning against it, incoming Gov. Pete Ricketts (R) now promises to implement it, but says he will not approve any new taxes to pay for it.
Utah	 Passed ballot initiative	Fully Republican	91K	Utah voters passed the initiative with 54 percent of the vote. Incumbent Gov. Gary Herbert (R), who has supported a partial expansion plan, says he will not fight the result and will implement full expansion.
Wisconsin	 New Democratic governor	Democratic governor, Republican legislature	32K	The state currently spends its own funds to support a non-ACA Medicaid expansion up to the poverty level. Incoming Gov. Tony Evers (D) supports full expansion, but may have difficulty convincing the GOP state legislature.

Note: Estimates of potential enrollment are based on Kaiser Family Foundation estimates of uninsured adults in current non-expansion states, and estimates by Avalere Health in Maine. Other estimates, including those provided by state governments, may be higher due to differences in methodology.

Sources: AP; Kaiser Family Foundation; Grant Schulte, “Ricketts: Medicaid expansion must come from existing budget,” The Associated Press; Nathaniel Weixel, “Nebraska voters pass Medicaid expansion,” The Hill; Jonathan Shorman, “Kelly’s plans face skeptical GOP legislature,” The Wichita Eagle; Avalere

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