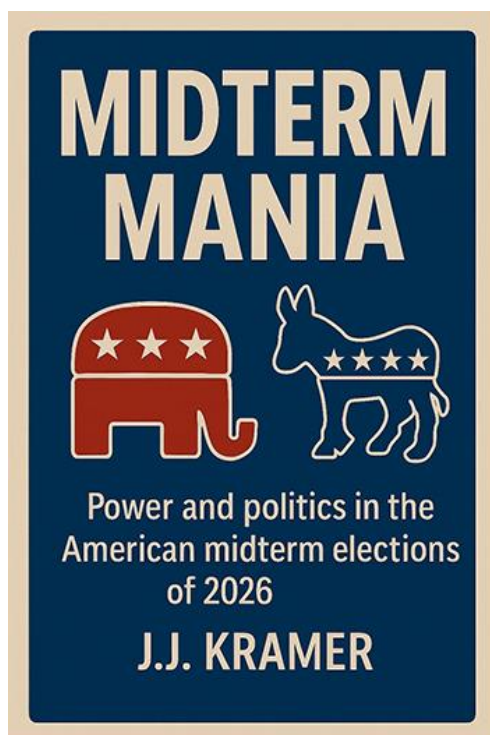


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J.J. Kramer - Midterm Mania

Power and Politics in the U.S. Midterm Elections of 2026

CURRENT AFFAIRS



Midterm Mania is a fast-paced, accessible guide to one of America's most important political traditions: the midterm elections. While the presidential elections get the global spotlight, it's often the midterms that determine who really holds power in Washington and beyond. In 2026, voters will face a dizzying ballot, featuring all 435 House seats, 35 Senate races, 36 governorships, countless state legislatures, judgeships, and local offices. The results will shape not only the final stretch of the Trump presidency but also set the stage for the 2028 presidential race.

Why I wrote this book? Because midterms are both pivotal and unpredictable. They're where voter moods shift, where political talent is tested, and where the future of U.S. democracy often takes shape. Yet for many people—inside and outside the United States—the rules, stakes,

and outcomes of midterms feel opaque. *Midterm Mania's* intention is to lift that fog. It explains what's at stake in 2026, why the U.S. has so many elections, how party systems evolve, and what issues will drive voters during the cycle of these midterms. The book also demystifies hot-button topics like gerrymandering, voter turnout, money in politics, and the so-called "midterm curse."

The "mania" in the title points to both the substance and the spectacle: a media ecosystem that treats every poll like breaking news, campaigns that stretch into permanent horse races, and a public conversation that feels like constant crisis. But beneath the frenzy lies the real question—what is actually at stake, how does the system work, and why do midterms matter so deeply? The tone is light, clear, and sometimes playful—because understanding politics shouldn't feel like reading a textbook. The style mixes sharp analysis with engaging explanations, designed for readers who are curious but don't want to drown in jargon.

Who should read it?

- Americans looking for context beyond daily headlines.
- European readers who follow the U.S. politics and want a handy explainer.

At its core, *Midterm Mania* is not just about elections; it's about how power in America shifts, survives, and sometimes surprises.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



J.J. Kramer (1980) is a Dutch author, analyst, and speaker with a deep fascination for the American Civil War and American politics. In 2024, his Dutch book *How U.S. Presidential Elections Really Work* was published, offering readers an in-depth look at the U.S. presidential election system from historical, political, and legal perspectives.

With *Midterm Mania*, Kramer turns his attention to America's midterm elections, bringing the same analytical clarity but in a more compact and accessible style. Writing as both a European and a self-described moderate independent, he provides a neutral perspective from a distance—close enough to grasp the details, far enough to see the bigger picture. This allows him to cut through partisan noise and explain what's really at stake.

Beyond his writing, Kramer works as an election analyst and corporate governance specialist. He is frequently invited to speak at conferences, book events, and media programs, offering commentary on U.S. politics for a broad audience. His mix of professional expertise, international outlook, and accessible style makes him a trusted guide for readers who want to understand not only how American elections work, but also why they matter.

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