



Kam Quarles
Chief Executive Officer



NPC Team

- Kam Quarles, *Chief Executive Officer*
- Mike Wenkel, *Chief Operating Officer*
- Hollee Alexander, *Vice President of Industry Affairs and Events*
- Mark Szymanski, *Director of Communications*
- Madi Poulin, *Program Coordinator*



NPC Maine Board Members

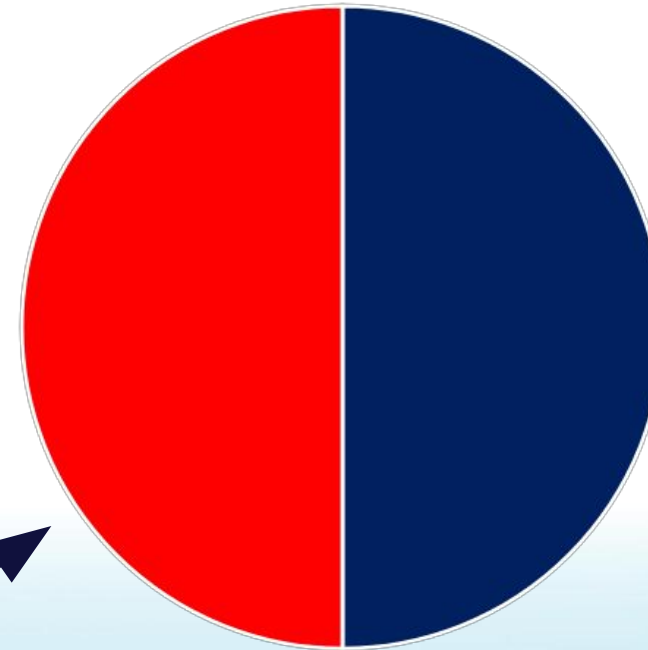
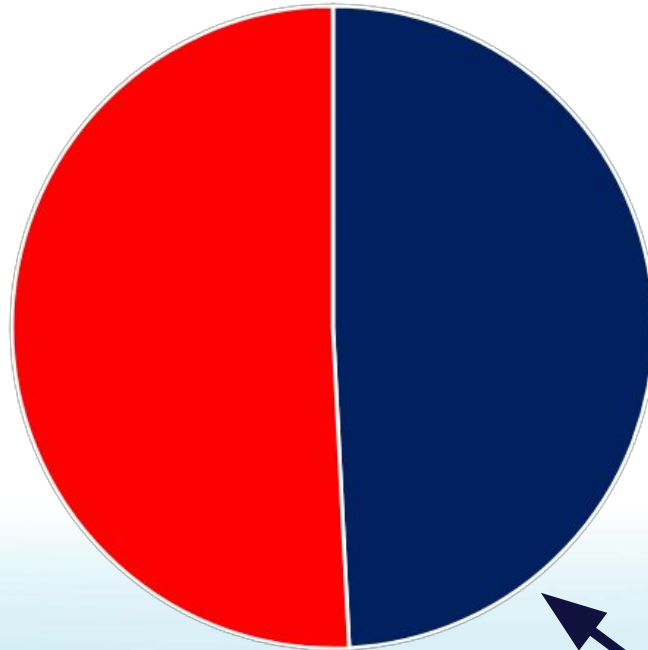
- Dominic LaJoie
- Robbie Irving
- Darrell McCrum



Narrowest Majorities In History

House

Senate



■ Republican ■ Democrat

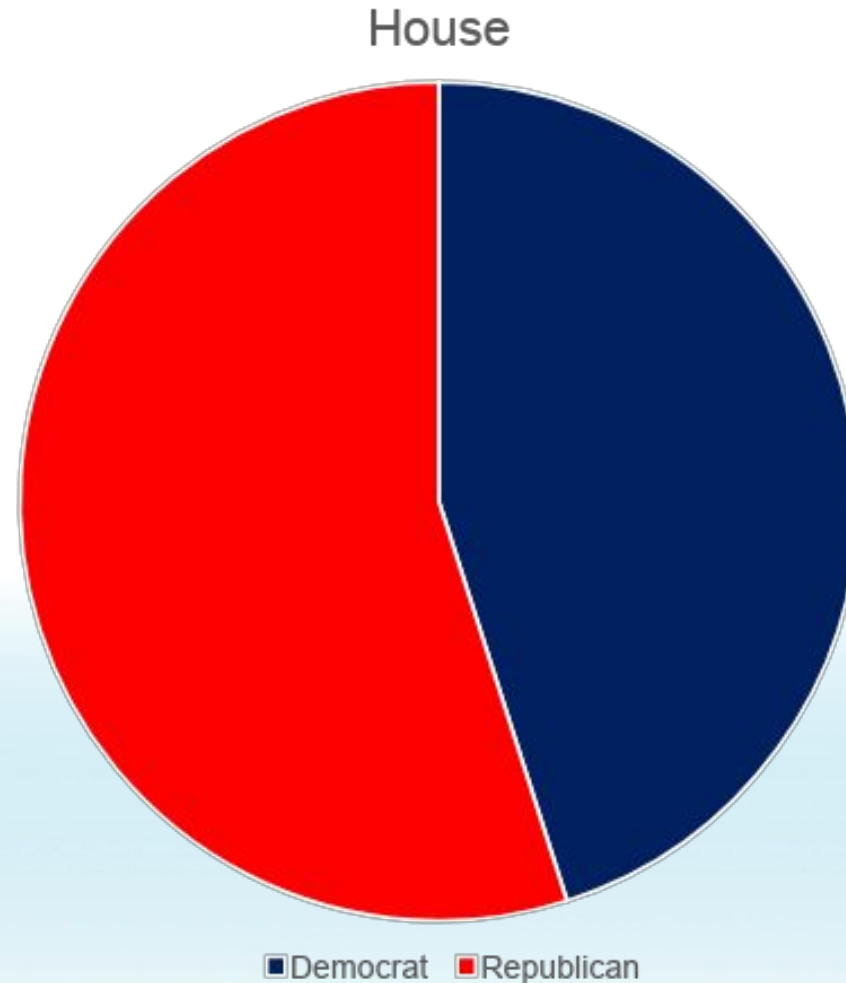
■ Republican ■ Democrat

5 seats control the Majority in Congress



Typical Midterm Gains in House

25 seat gain
*typical for party NOT
holding the White
House*



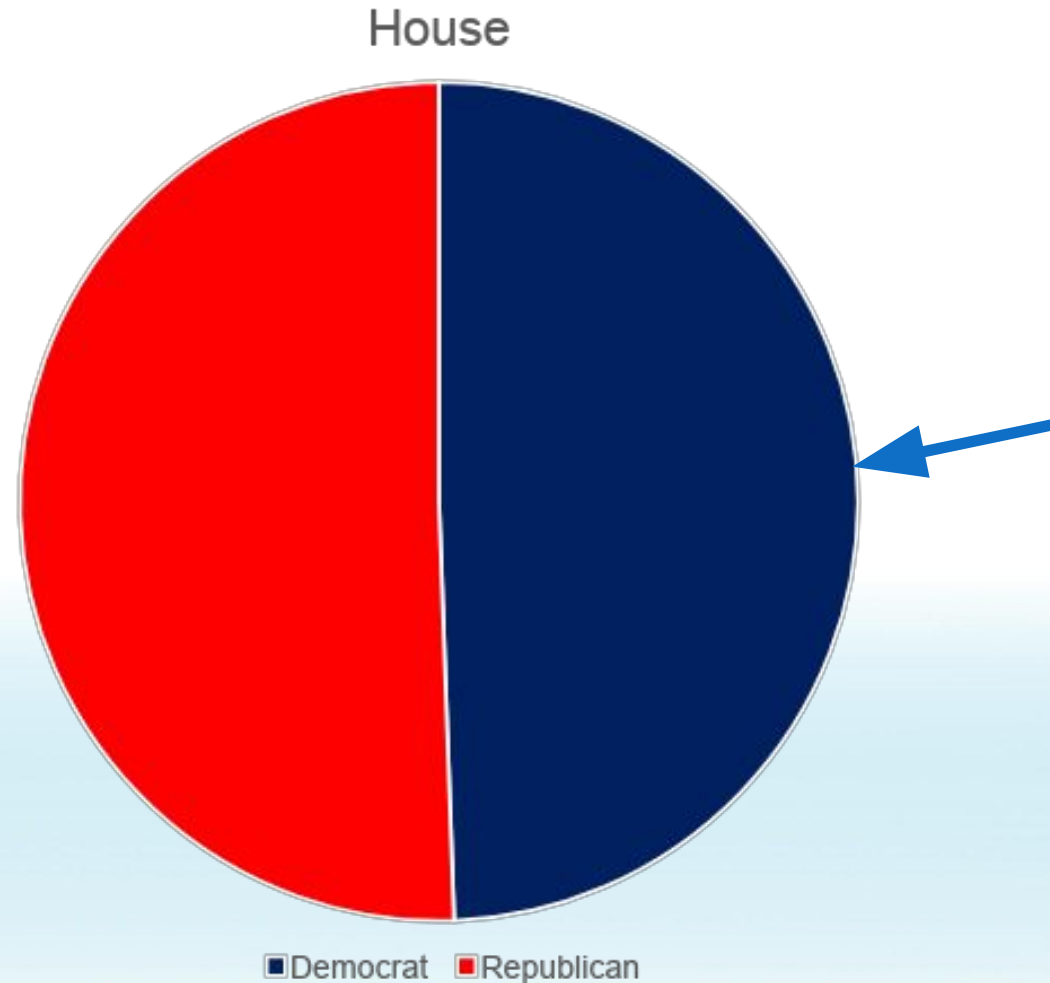
Typical Midterm Gains in House

25 seat gain

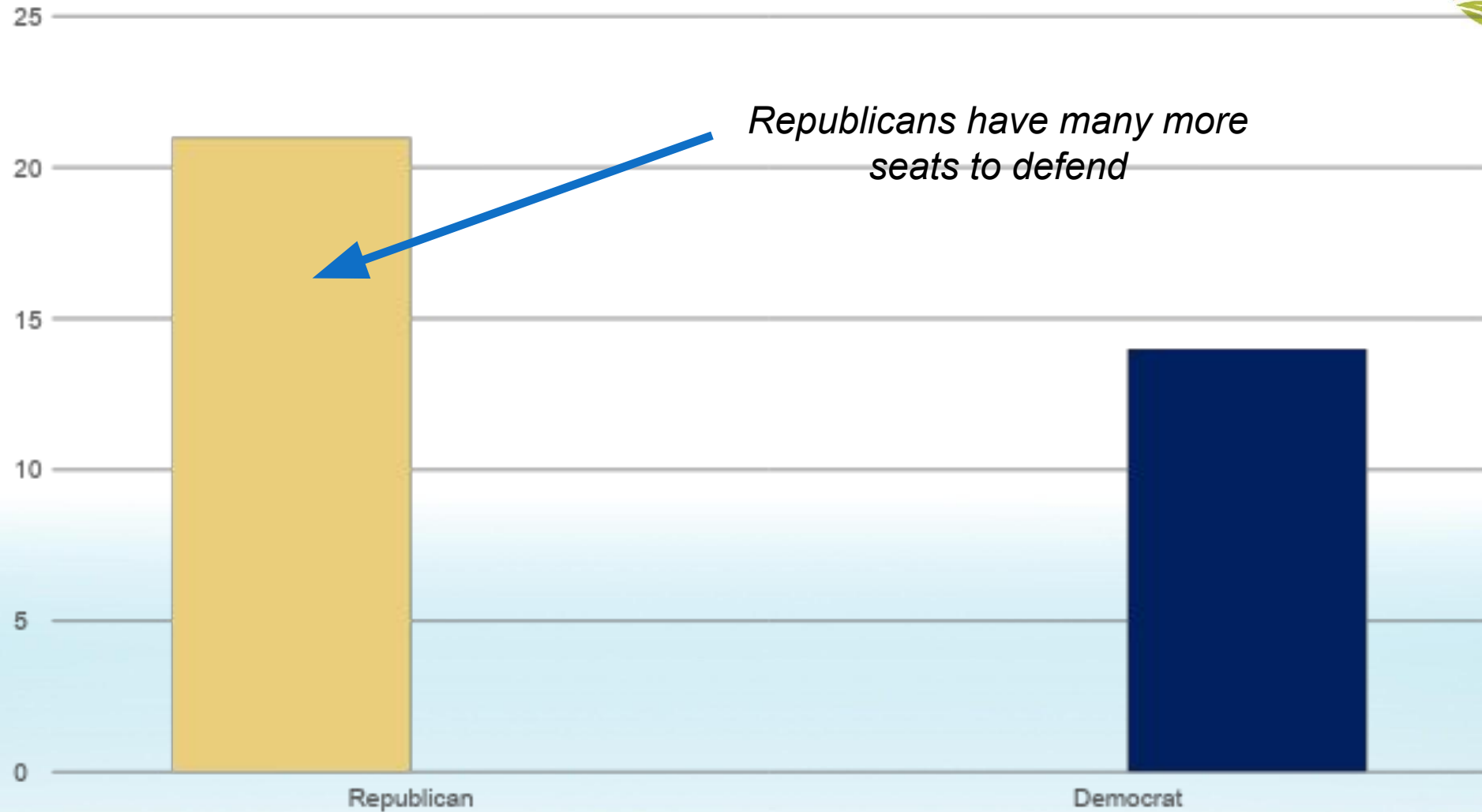
*typical for party NOT
holding the White
House*



*Didn't
happen*



Senate May Be Different



Senate Seats To Watch



LEAN

Democrat

Bennet-CO

Hassan - NH

TOSS-UP

Kelly – AZ

Warnock – GA

Cortez Masto –
NV

Open Seat – PA

Johnson - WI

LEAN

Republican

Rubio – FL

Open Seat – NC

Open Seat - Ohio

Cook Political Report – August 2022



Senate Seats To Watch



LEAN

Democrat

Bennet-CO

Hassan - NH

TOSS-UP

Kelly – AZ

Warnock – GA

Cortez Masto –
NV

Open Seat – PA

Johnson - WI

LEAN

Republican

Rubio – FL

Open Seat – NC

Open Seat - Ohio



Things to Watch

- 60 votes in the Senate
- House factions with Big Influence
 - Tiny Margin of Error for New Speaker
- Will the Administration Use Congressional Gridlock to Regulate?



What **May Stop** with New Majority Leadership?



- Tax Increases
- New COVID Relief
- Ag Labor Reform

What May Continue With New Majority Leadership?



- ✓ Farm Bill
- ✓ Infrastructure
- ✓ Trade Initiatives
- ✓ DGAs – White House Nutrition Conference



PEI – New APHIS Assessment Finds Major Risk



□ October 14th – APHIS Risk Assessment

- ✓ “The full extent of the potato wart infestation in PEI is still unknown but is **likely to be larger than currently reported.**”
- ✓ “Without mitigation measures, **potato wart is almost certain to be introduced** to U.S. potato production areas via seed potatoes imported from PEI.”
- ✓ “**Potatoes for consumption may be a pathway** for the introduction of potato wart into the United States”
- ✓ “While some soil samples from the 2021 detection have been tested, **several thousand remain to be collected.**”

PRODUCE CROPS

U.S. potato groups want USDA to increase protections against potato wart spread from Prince Edward Island



THE NEED FOR A NEW POTATO WART PREVENTION PROTOCOL

BY POTATO BUSINESS / 11TH NOVEMBER 2022

SHARE: [f](#) [t](#) [in](#)



To stop the spread of the potato wart from Prince Edward Island (PEI) to U.S. growing regions, U.S. potato organizations are requesting that the USDA create new phytosanitary protocols.

In a letter to USDA Undersecretary of Marketing and Regulatory Services, Jenny Moffitt, the National Potato Council, and twelve state potato groups urged the organization to collaborate with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

The letter comes in response to a risk assessment released on October 14 by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which found that without further mitigation measures in place, the disease is “very certain to be introduced” to the U.S.

Following a meeting between the Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, and the U.S. President, Joe Biden, at the White House, the industry acknowledged that USDA was under considerable political pressure to reopen the border to table stock potatoes. However, the industry stated in the letter that it is still disappointed that last spring exports “were allowed to reopen with essentially the same protocol as before the ban was implemented.”

November 10, 2022

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [e](#)

are asking the USDA to develop new phytosanitary protocols to prevent potato wart from Prince Edward Island to U.S. growing areas.

to Council and a dozen state potato associations sent a letter to USDA Marketing and Regulatory Services Jenny Moffitt calling on the agency to

U.S. Industry Demands Immediate Action



- In November, NPC, the Maine Potato Board and eleven other state associations demanded action from USDA
- October 14th report states that current workplan isn't enough
- USDA must rewrite or replace it with something that address the risk they identified.
- Must occur immediately, since President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau agreed to allow imports to resume **before risk was addressed.**

CFIA Agrees




Mexico - First Shipments Exported In May



The Packer News Markets Weather Opinion Topics Events Video

INDUSTRY

U.S. potato leaders applaud expanded fresh access to Mexico



(National Potato Council)

By **THE PACKER STAFF** May 12, 2022

The National Potato Council is welcoming the news that the first shipments of potatoes crossed into Mexico beyond the previous 26-kilometer border restriction.

The successful crossings signal the start of Mexico's process to restore full market access for U.S. fresh potatoes after decades of disputes and legal obstructions, according to a release.

POTATO GROWER

HOME CALENDAR PRODUCTS SMORGASBORD 50 FOR 50 GROWER OF THE MONTH



POTATO GROWER Serving the potato industry

National Potato Council Applauds First Shipments Of U.S. Fresh Potatoes To Mexico in 25 Plus Years

U.S. growers appreciate partnership with USDA, USTR in reopening full Mexican market to U.S. potatoes

Published online: May 12, 2022 | Articles
Viewed 143 time(s)

Washington – The National Potato Council today welcomed the news that the first shipments of U.S. fresh potatoes crossed into Mexico yesterday, May 11. The successful crossings signal the start of Mexico's process to restore full market access for U.S. fresh potatoes after decades of disputes and legal obstructions.

RED RIVER FARM NETWORK

Reporting Agriculture's Business

NEWS ON-DEMAND RADIO EVENTS RADIO STATIONS



Find the right multi-peril crop for your acres using the new exclusively through AgCountry

Mexico Resolve Potato Trade



After more than 25 years of regulatory hurdles, **fresh U.S. potatoes are available in Mexico**. Previously, the United States could not export potatoes beyond a 26-kilometer border zone. Despite those restrictions, Mexico was the second largest market for fresh potato exports in 2021. National Potato Council CEO Kam Quarles praised USDA and the U.S. Trade Representative's Office for making this a priority for U.S. trade. "Ag Secretary Tom Vilsack lived up to the promised deadline of getting this done by May 15. This first fresh potato shipment initially originated in Idaho, Nevada and Oregon,"

Mexico – Work is Ongoing

- CONPAPA continuing legal battles despite Mexican Supreme Court ruling
 - NPC legal team has been successful in defending
- Mexico changed testing procedure for fresh potatoes without telling USDA
 - Includes **CONPAPA paying for the lab results**
- Inflation reduction measures – what is the reaction?



Administration and Congress Seek to Enforce



*Senate Finance Confirmation Hearing
Questions on Mexico Potato Access:*

“This experience has provided me a direct appreciation for the difficult steps and tenacity that we must exhibit to ensure that the promises of past trade agreements are realized,” McKalip said.

“I will use every tool available to maintain that agreement, so that there is no back slippage or loss of access for potatoes.”



Farm Bill Discussions Already Beginning



- Trade Title
 - **\$200 million annually** for the Market Access Program
 - *Potatoes USA is the beneficiary*
 - **\$9 million** for Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops
 - *TASC funds substantial work on the Mexico fresh issue*
- Nutrition Title
 - GusNIP Program incentivizes F&V purchases at retail
 - *Potatoes are a direct beneficiary*



Farm Bill – Major Issues



Import Sensitive Commodities

- Some specialty crops are seeking a permanent program to offset import competition
- Alternative to failed attempts to change U.S. antidumping laws
- Cost/Impact/Retaliation?

Non-Specialty Crops Seeking Specialty Crop Funds

- Hemp, natural stone, wild rice, aquaculture
- Specialty crop programs are already oversubscribed.
- NPC Board and SCFBA unanimously oppose

Unintended consequences!



POTATO EXPO

JANUARY 4-5, 2023



GAYLORD ROCKIES, AURORA, COLORADO



This Spud's For You – Celebrity Chef Edition!



Hosted by Ted Allen
Emmy Award-Winning Host,
Chopped & Chopped Junior



Duff Goldman,
Host of Food Network's
Ace of Cakes and host
and judge of Kids Baking
Championship

v.



Simon Majumdar,
World-renowned broadcaster,
food writer, author, cook, Food
Network judge and TV
personality.





NPC Washington Summit

✓ February 28th – March 3rd



Thank you Maine Potato Board!!!

