

November 7, 2008

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1. NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS SWEEP IN PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA

President

Having built a formidable coalition that included young people, Hispanics and other minorities, and white upper-middle class professionals, Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) and Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) captured 53 percent of the popular vote and 364 electoral votes.

As he begins to consider who to appoint to his White House staff and who to nominate for his Cabinet, the speculation swirls around several candidates.

The top candidate for Secretary of Health and Human Services is reportedly former Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota. However, Karen Davis, President of the Commonwealth Fund; Howard Dean, MD, the chairman of the Democratic National Committee; Harold Varmus, MD, former Director of the National Institutes of Health; and Governor Kathleen Sebelius (D-KS) also have been mentioned

Senate

Democrats picked up at least 6 seats (New Hampshire, Virginia, North Carolina, Colorado, Oregon and New Mexico) with 3 more seats in doubt (Alaska is still counting, Georgia will have a run-off election on December 2, and Minnesota is headed for a recount). No Republican took a seat currently held by a Democrat. The Democrats came into the election with 49 Senators; 2 Independents (Sen. Bernard Sanders of Vermont and Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut) caucus with the Democrats.

The status of Sen. Lieberman's association with the Party is in doubt, since he campaigned extensively for the election of Sen. McCain.

It will be up to Senate Republicans how to handle the situation should Sen. Ted Stevens (R-AK) be declared the winner. He is a convicted felon. Republican Leader, Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY), who had called on Sen. Stevens to resign, is quoted as saying there is a 100-percent chance against Sen. Stevens being sworn in for the 111th Congress. Meanwhile, he remains a Senator for the 110th Congress lame duck session. If he resigns or is expelled, Alaska law does not allow the Governor to appoint a replacement but rather requires a special election.

There are three chairmanship positions that are vacant. Vice President-Elect Biden currently is the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Robert Byrd (D-WV) has announced his intention to resign his chairmanship of the Appropriations Committee. Finally, Sen.

Lieberman chairs the Homeland Security Committee, and the Senate Democratic leadership may ask him to relinquish that post. These vacancies will set off a vigorous shuffling of committee leaders. As the organizational “musical chairs” takes place before the new Congress convenes in early January, membership on the three committees that have jurisdiction over most health issues will shift.

While the election did not give Democrats the filibuster-proof majority that they have sought, reaching the 60-vote threshold to cut off debate in the Senate will be easier in the 111th Congress. At least 4 Republican senators (Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins of Maine, Norm Coleman of Minnesota – if his election withstands the recount – and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania) have been willing in the past to break with the GOP vote with Democrats on specific issues.

House of Representatives

Democrats picked up 23 seats held by Republicans and lost 4 of their own, for a net gain of 19 seats. About six seats are still contested or due for a recount or run-off election. Of the Democratic pickups, six are from the Northeast, five from the Midwest, six from the South and six from the Rocky Mountain West.

Some of the notable changes include the loss of Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT), who was the last Republican Representative from New England; Rep. Thelma Drake (R-VA), who represented the Virginia Beach area of Virginia, which includes a significant military contingent; Rep. Robin Hayes (R-NC), who has survived several close elections in the past; Rep. Bill Sali (R-ID) who lost even though the state voted 62 percent for McCain for President; and Rep. Steve Chabot (R-OH) who was the senior Republican member of the Small Business Committee.

Meanwhile, Republican challengers defeated Rep. Nancy Boyda (D-KS), Don Cazayoux (D-LA), Rep. Nick Lampson (D-TX) and Tim Mahoney (D-FL).

2. States Pick Governors; Legislators and Ballot Initiatives

Partisan Control of State Legislatures

Democrats: 28 Full Legislatures (+4)

Republicans: 17 Full Legislatures (+2)

Joint: 4 Split Legislatures (-3)

*Nebraska has an officially nonpartisan unicameral state legislature.

Chamber Changes

STATE	CHAMBER	CHANGE	DEM	GOP	IND	PICK-UP
Alaska	Senate	TIED	10	10		+1D
Delaware	House	Dem. Control	26	15		+7D
Montana	House	TIED	50	50		+1D
Montana	Senate	GOP Control	22	27		+3R
Nevada	Senate	Dem. Control	12	9		+2D
New York	Senate	Dem. Control	32	30		+3D
Ohio	House	Dem. Control	53	46		+7D
Oklahoma	Senate	GOP Control	22	26		+2R
Tennessee	House	GOP Control	48	51		+5R
Tennessee	Senate	GOP Control	14	19		+3R
Wisconsin	Assembly	Dem. Control	52	46	1	+5D

Takeovers of the Delaware, Ohio and Wisconsin Houses, and the Nevada and New York Senates, gives Democrats full control of the legislatures in those states. Republicans broke ties in Oklahoma and Tennessee to take full control over those legislatures. The Montana Senate flipped from narrow Democratic to solid Republican control.

With initial results in on Montana House races, Big Sky Republicans lost their slim majority and the chamber is now in a 50-50 tie. A tied Alaska Senate essentially splits the Alaska Legislature between the two parties. However, the Lieutenant Governor is a Republican and will help organize control of the chamber. To reinforce the phrase “every vote counts,” the Texas House may also join those two chambers in the “Tied” column, pending a recount where the Democratic challenger to the Republican incumbent is down by 29 votes out of 40,000 cast.

Partisan Net Gain/Loss of State Legislative Seats

In state senate races, Democrats have made a net gain of 12 seats to bring them to a total of 1026 nationwide. Republicans have lost seven seats, dropping GOP-held seats to 891. Independents hold three seats, holding steady, while one seat remains undecided (a Texas Senate seat vacated by the incumbent is headed to a run-off) and one seat is vacant (a Pennsylvania Republican senator was re-elected posthumously, having passed away two and a half weeks before the election).

In state assembly/house races, Democrats have picked up 100 seats, bringing their nationwide total to 3064. Republicans have lost 69 seats, leaving that party at 2330. Sixteen seats are held by independents, a loss of four. All assembly/house races have been decided and one seat in Virginia is vacant.

Each party’s net from Tuesday’s races may change slightly pending various recounts underway.

The “Most Lopsided Chamber” award appears to go to the 25-member Hawaii Senate, where the Republican Caucus lost half its members to become a caucus of two. The new composition is 23 D – 2 R.

Another Historic First

With Tuesday’s victories, the New Hampshire Senate will become the first ever majority-female legislative chamber: 13 of the 24 senators will be women. Nationwide, women accounted for just under one-fourth of all state legislators prior to the election. Preliminary indicators are that this figure likely will not change dramatically.

Gubernatorial Elections

All incumbents running for re-election won their races. Of the three open-seat contests, the Democratic candidates held the seats in Delaware and North Carolina and picked up a seat from the Republicans in Missouri. Coming out of the 2008 elections, 29 states and three territories have Democratic governors, while Republicans hold the office in 21 states and two territories.

No candidate received over 50 percent of the vote in American Samoa, forcing a run-off election between incumbent Governor Togiola Tulafono and Utu Abe Malae, former president of the Development Bank of American Samoa.

STATE	WINNER	PARTY	RESULT
American Samoa			
Delaware	Jack Markell	D	DEM Hold
Indiana	Mitch Daniels	R	GOP Re-elected

Missouri	Jay Nixon	D	Dem Pick-Up
Montana	Brian Schweitzer	D	Dem Re-elected
New Hampshire	John Lynch	D	Dem Re-elected
North Carolina	Bev Perdue	D	Dem Hold
North Dakota	John Hoeven	R	GOP Re-elected
Puerto Rico	Luis Fortuno	NPP	NPP Pick-Up
Utah	Jon Huntsman	R	GOP Re-elected
Vermont	Jim Douglas	R	GOP Re-elected
Washington	Christine Gregoire	D	Dem Re-elected
West Virginia	Joe Manchin	D	Dem Re-elected

Ballot Measures

Fifteen health-related ballot measures were before voters in 11 states on Tuesday.

Four have failed so far; three related to abortion and one that would have increased the state sales tax to fund additional services for the developmentally disabled.

Among those that passed were medical marijuana in Michigan, a SCHIP expansion in Montana, tobacco use and cessation programs in North Dakota, as well as facilities and services improvements in California, Missouri, New Mexico and Washington.

Also in Washington, an initiative to allow mentally-competent terminally ill adults to obtain and self-administer a lethal medication prescribed by a physician passed decisively. Washington joins its neighbor Oregon in this effort, which passed a similar measure in 1994.

In Michigan, Proposal 08-2 asked voters to approve an amendment to the state constitution that addressed stem cell research. The amendment delineates how stem cells may be acquired for research, while including a clause prohibiting, "state laws that prevent, restrict or discourage stem cell research, therapies or cures." The amendment passed narrowly.

One somewhat controversial measure remains undecided and too close to call as November 6. Proposition 101 in Arizona, under the title "Freedom of Choice in Health Care," essentially would prohibit the state from implementing a health insurance coverage scheme similar to the reform being pioneered in Massachusetts.

STATE	NUMBER	TITLE	TYPE	RESULT
Arizona	Proposition 101	Freedom of Choice in Health Care	Initiative	Undecided
California	Proposition 3	Children's Hospital Bond Act. Grant Program. Initiative Statute.	Initiative	PASSED
California	Proposition 4	Waiting Period and Parental Notification Before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.	Initiative	FAILED
Colorado	Amendment 48	Definition of Person	Initiative	FAILED
Colorado	Amendment 51	State Sales Tax Increase for Services for People with Developmental Disabilities	Initiative	FAILED
Maine	Question 1	People's Veto - Beverage Tax	Popular Referendum	PASSED

Michigan	Proposal 08-1	A Legislative Initiative to Permit the Use and Cultivation of Marijuana for Specified Medical Conditions	Initiative	PASSED
Michigan	Proposal 08-2	A Proposal to Amend the State Constitution to Permit Human Embryo and Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research in Michigan	Initiative	PASSED
Missouri	Proposition B	Home Care	Initiative	PASSED
Montana	I-155	Healthy Montana Kids Plan Act	Initiative	PASSED
New Mexico	Bond Question 3	Health Facility Improvement Bonds	Legislative Referendum	PASSED
North Dakota	Statutory Measure 3	Tobacco Use Prevention and Control Program	Initiative	PASSED
South Dakota	Initiated Measure 11	Reinstate Prohibition Against Abortion	Initiative	FAILED
Washington	Initiative 1000	Allowing Certain Terminally Ill Competent Adults to Obtain Lethal Prescriptions	Initiative	PASSED
Washington	Initiative 1029	Long-Term Care Services for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities	Initiative	PASSED

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), 153 total measures were on the ballot in 36 states. For historical perspective, the current high-water mark stands at 240 ballot measures considered on election day in 1996. This year marked only the second time the number dipped below 200 in an even-numbered year, with the other being 162 at the 2004 election.

3. FamMedPAC Plays Role in National Elections

FamMedPAC, through the PAC Board's contribution strategy, has put AAFP in a strong position to work with the new Congress. In 2007-2008, its first full election cycle, the PAC contributed \$733,000 to 147 candidates and committees. Most of these contributions went to incumbent Representatives or Senators who serve on key committees or in key leadership roles. All but three of them were reelected. In addition, the PAC made contributions to 15 open seat or challenger candidates. Nine of these candidates were elected to Congress (or were projected to be elected, pending recounts) and will work closely with AAFP on our key issues.

The PAC also contributed to key coalitions and national party committees of both political parties. Of particular importance are:

- the Blue Dog Democrats,
- the New Democratic Coalition,
- the Tuesday Group of moderate Republicans, and
- the Main Street Partnership, also moderate Republicans.

Members of these groups tend to vote as a block on their key issues. By supporting these groups, we have helped focus their attention on healthcare, and family medicine in particular. Members of AAFP have participated in healthcare roundtable discussions with members of these coalitions and AAFP has provided testimony and position papers to their healthcare subcommittees. Pending approval by the PAC Board, we plan to continue supporting these groups in the new Congress.

Even with the large amount of total giving for the 2007 – 2008 election cycle, the PAC ended the year with almost \$300,000 in the bank. This is in large part due to the direct marketing/phone campaign conducted by the PAC throughout 2008. This reserve gives the PAC the ability to begin making contributions early in 2009. The PAC Board, with input from Government Relations staff, will identify those legislators who support our key issues and direct early contributions to them. The decisions will be based on the contribution criteria developed by the PAC Board for the previous election cycle, updated for the new Congress. When making these early contributions, we will certainly take into account the legislator's support for the SCHIP bill and the Medicare SGR payment legislation in the 110th Congress.

4. AAFP BEGINS FOCUS ON NEW KEY CONTACTS

AAFP already has begun determining where new Key Contacts will be needed as a result of the elections. Along with this memo is a spreadsheet crosswalking Congressional legislators with Key Contacts.