



Kansas 2008 Election Report

While the national political scene shifted dramatically to the left on November 4th, the Wheat State remained what Katie Couric called “the ruby-red state of Kansas.” Without spending a dime in Kansas, McCain won 57-42 over Obama. Despite the surge in new voter registrations (mostly new democrats) and a significantly larger slate of candidates, Democrats lost one seat net in the Kansas Senate and picked up only one seat net in the Kansas House of Representatives.

All of the State Senate and House of Representatives seats were up for election, as well as the four congressional seats and one U.S. Senate seat.

- **Republican U.S. Senator Pat Roberts** easily defeated the Democrat challenger, Jim Slattery by a margin of 60% to 37%.
- **Three of the four U.S. House of Representatives** incumbents won their elections. In the 1st District, incumbent Jerry Moran easily defeated his Democrat challenger with an 82% to 13% win.
- **In the 2nd District, incumbent Democrat Nancy Boyda** was defeated by State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins. Lynn is a moderate Republican that won by a 5% margin – with 51% to 46% of the vote.
- **The 3rd District retained Democrat Dennis Moore.** His challenger, former state Senator Nick Jordan was defeated in a 56% to 40% race.
- **Incumbent Todd Tiahrt easily won re-election** in the 4th District over former Democrat state Senator Donald Betts by a 64% to 32% margin.

Although there were not elections on the statewide level, there may be changes in the future. Governor Kathleen Sebelius was an early supporter of Barack Obama, and spent a great deal of time campaigning for him in other states. If Governor Sebelius would join President Elect Obama in DC, Lieutenant Governor Mark Parkinson would become the Governor. The Governor and Lieutenant Governor are on the same ticket in Kansas.

Since Kansas State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins won the U.S. House District; the Treasurer’s office will be open. In Kansas, the Governor chooses the replacement, so more likely than not, the Treasurer’s office will be filled by a Democrat.



The Kansas Senate party split is now 31 Republicans and 9 Democrats. The Democrats lost two seats and gained one seat held by a moderate Republican. The Republicans lost one moderate Republican seat; but gained one conservative Republican seat and one other moderate Republican seat to keep the balance of power about even.

The Democrats lost District 13 in southeast Kansas. Democrat Senator Jim Barone decided not to run for his seat, and Republican Bob Marshall won the seat by a 57% to 40% margin.

The Democrats also lost incumbent Greta Goodwin in District 32 to Republican Steve Abrams in south central Kansas. Steve Abrams won the seat with a 54% to 46% margin. Steve was a former Kansas State Board of Education member.

The Democrats picked up District 3 by defeating one term Senator Roger Pine. Tom Holland, former State House member defeated Roger Pine by 3%.

The outlook for leadership races appears to be a tight as it was in 2004, when moderate Republican Senator Steve Morris won by a margin of 16-14, with 30 Republican Senators. The leadership races will be held in the Senate on December 1.

The Kansas House Democrats picked up one seat to increase their numbers to 48 Democrats, while the Republicans keep their majority of 77 Republicans. Five seats changed political party in the House. Democrats gained three and Republicans two seats. In the final analysis, the party turnover was in the urban areas and not the rural areas, and there was very little party turnover in general.

The House leadership will still have a conservative direction, which will be business as usual, no matter who is in the Speaker's chair.

The five seats are:

District 19 – Incumbent Tim Owens ran for the Senate. Dolores Furtado, Democrat wins this seat, which is a Democrat pick up in Johnson County in a moderate Republican seat.

District 23 – Judy Morrison, Johnson County incumbent did not seek re-election. Milack Talia wins this seat to pick up a Democrat seat.

District 24- Incumbent Ronnie Metsker, Republican, was defeated by Democrat Mike Slattery, for a Democrat pick up in Johnson County.



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District 96 – Democrat incumbent Terry McLachlan, Wichita, loses a close race with Republican Phil Hermanson, also of Wichita by 55 votes.

District 101 – Democrat incumbent Mark Treaster, Pretty Prairie, was defeated by Republican Joe Seiwert, also of Pretty Prairie.

Questions – please contact:

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