

CHANGE

(PART TWO)

Democrats cling to the Senate while Republicans sweep the House.



Larry Downing / Reuters

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It was a rough night for Democrats as they watched their once staggering majority dwindle away.

Election night saw long-

time Senators like Sen. Russ Feingold (D-WI) and Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) get voted out of office.

Even seats that have been held for years by Democrats went to republicans. In Illinois, the Republican Mark

Kirk was elected to fill the vacated Senate seat of President Obama.

While Democrats struggled in the Senate, they still managed to hold on to a majority. This was not the case in the house where Demo-

crats lost the most number of seats in 70 years.

Last Tuesday's election saw the biggest party turnover since 1938, losing 63 House seats to the Republicans. The last time the President's party did this badly in a

midterm election was in 1938 under President Franklin Roosevelt.

With a new party set to take control of the House in January, new leaders need to be chosen. House Minority Leader John Boehner (R-OH)

is expected to be nominated to Speaker of the House, with Eric Cantor (R-VA) running for Majority Leader.

Against the advice her colleagues, former Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she would run for minority leader.



House of Representatives

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It started off in a majority that saw 256 Democrats and 179 Republicans, until Tuesday. Now the house of representatives has changed majorities.

The midterms saw an estimated 63 Republican gains in the House bringing their new total to an estimated 243 seats. This leaves the Democrats with an estimated 192 seats - a virtual trade on both sides.

The presumed speaker, John Boehner (R-OH) immediately went on t.v. to speak about taking the House back. During the speech, Boehner got very emotional for finally reaching what he called one of his life goals.

Directly under the Speaker of the House, is House Majority Leader, which is assumed to be Eric Cantor (R-

VA). Cantor currently is the House Minority Whip and announced intentions of running for Majority Leader.

The current Speaker, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced this week that she intends to run for Minority Leader. This was against the advice of several of her colleagues that suggested she was too "liberal."

This isn't the first time that Pelosi has been attacked for being too liberal. Many of the 63 democratic seats that were lost saw campaigning commercials that compared the representative to Pelosi.

The House elections made history this year electing the two first Republican African American representatives from the deep south since 1898.

2010 also saw the election of Sean Duffy, from MTV's Real World Boston be elected in Wisconsin.

Senate

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At the highest point in the year it was 60 Senators. Now, the democratic majority in the Senate has dwindled down to 53.

During Tuesday's elections, the republicans picked up an additional six senate seats. With these republican gains, the estimated totals are now 53 - 47.

Leadership in the Senate is expected to stay the same, but it is still unsure whether or not Harry Reid will continue to lead the democrats.

Majority Leader Reid is somewhat unpopular with liberal democrats in the Senate for not taking a firmer stance with republicans on important bills like climate change, financial reform, and health care.

Several races across the country were very close in-

cluding, PA's Sestak vs. Toomey which saw the election of Pat Toomey to the Senate.

While this is arguably one of the closest elections across the country, it is also a history making one.

In the primaries Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski lost nomination to run against Sarah Palin backed tea-partyist Joe Miller. Murkowski then announced that she would run as a write in Candidate for Alaska.

Her decision caused controversy among the republican party, but Murkowski pressed forward.

She became the first person in over 50 years to win a write in candidacy to election, since Strom Thurmond won back in the 1950's.

Murkowski was one of the lucky Senators that was able to fight off a tea party candidate to win reelection.

The year of the crazy candidates

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From candidates who "dabbled in witchcraft," to those who believe in an "Aqua Buddha," the 2010 elections had a wide variety of candidates run for office.

Candidates from states like Delaware, Kentucky, and Nevada, had republican challengers present new views.

Christine O'Donnell of Delaware, was criticized for once, "dabbling in witchcraft" causing much controversy.

O'Donnell was never the favorite, even through the primary election where she beat out longtime moderate republican Mike Castle.

With her primary win, it was known that the Senate seat previously held by Vice President Joe Biden, would go to the democrat Chris Coons. O'Donnell lost by almost 20 percent in the election.

In Kentucky, Democratic Attorney General Jack Conway battled local Optomologist, Rand Paul in a very close race.

Before the election, polls showed Paul with a slight lead over Conway. But the biggest controversy came from a debate between the two.

It was said that while in college, Paul allegedly held a girl down and forced her to acknowledge the "Aqua Buddha." Paul won election by 10

points.

Conway brought this up in a debate, which angered Paul and led to the two not shaking hands after.

Then there was Sharon Angle in Nevada going against the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

Through the months leading to the election, Angle constantly refused to talk to the press. Angle then came underfire when she said that teenage rape victims should, "make lemonade out of a lemon situation." Angle lost the election by 6 points.

Based off of the variety of candidates in this election, a lot is left to imagine for 2012.

Steve Marcus / Reuters

Jonathan Ernst / Reuters

Jeff Haynes / Reuters



Mark Terrell / Reuters

