



Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., speaks with his supporters at the Republican victory party held Tuesday night at the Ramada Conference Center. Thompson claimed victory by more than 7,000 votes.

# Thompson keeps 5th district seat

## Incumbent wins decisively

By Mike Frick  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In a decisive victory, Republican incumbent Glenn Thompson was reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives in Pennsylvania's 5th congressional district on Tuesday.

Thompson, Class of 1991, will resume his second term as representative for the 17-county congressional district, after defeating Democratic candidate Michael Pipe and Libertarian candidate Vernon Ebel.

At his victory party at the Ramada Conference Center, 1450 S. Atherton St., Thompson pledged his dedication to the 5th district by committing to lower taxes, an increase in rural economic development and the responsible use of Marcellus Shale natural gas.

"I think tonight belongs to the American people. This is their evening," Thompson said. "This comes with a weighted responsibility. It's time to put the wheels back on government."

Thompson's victory coincides with the Republican Party regaining majority control of the House.

Thompson is a member of the House Education and Labor and Small Business and Agriculture committees. Chief of Political Operations for Friends of Glenn Thompson D. Brent Pasquinelli said.

Thompson serves as both vice co-chairman of the Congressional Rural Caucus and

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Glenn Thompson  
5th District representative

vice chairman of the Congressional Healthcare Caucus. Pasquinelli said.

He also led a successful campaign against tolling on Interstate 80, Pasquinelli said.

Opposing Democratic candidate Michael Pipe engaged in his first political campaign as a 25-year-old. He graduated from Penn State in 2009 and ran on a platform of responsible taxation and job creation.

Though he lost by 7,840 votes, Pipe said his first political campaign taught him valuable lessons.

"It changed my view of this country and of the American people. It's been an extraordinary process. I've been really humbled," Pipe said.

He said he has no immediate political plans but will spend time with his fiancée, Ashley, during his newfound downtime.

"We're just going to push and move forward," he said. "I wish [Thompson] the best and that he works for common sense solutions in the district."

To e-mail reporter: [mjh5507@psu.edu](mailto:mjh5507@psu.edu)

# Toomey edges past Sestak

By Nick Manella  
COLLEGIAN STAFF WRITER

In a race that was neck-and-neck late into the night, Republican Pat Toomey was announced by multiple major media outlets as the winner of Arlen Specter's Senate seat Tuesday in what amounted to one of the tightest races in the country.

The race was closer than many predicted early in the election season, with Toomey taking a narrow margin late in the night for the victory over Democrat Joe Sestak — 51 percent to 49 percent.

"This is a victory for the people of Pennsylvania. We're sending a message that we're tired and we're going to chart a new course," Toomey said, who went on to thank his family and those who worked and contributed to his campaign.

Toomey, a former Wall Street investment banker, spoke strongly for financial deregulation in government policy. Toomey's support of free trade became a major sticking point between the two candidates. Sestak accused Toomey of advocating the outsourcing of jobs to China in a television advertisement during election season.

Early in the day Toomey's campaign manager Mark Harris was confident in the Republican's chances.

"We're seeing a phenomenal outpouring for Pat Toomey all across the state," he said. "All indications are that our voters are



Carolyn Kaster/Associated Press

Pat Toomey, left, talks with the media with his daughter, Bridget, 10, center, and his wife, Kris, after voting at Upper Milford Township.

energized and coming out to vote."

A former Navy admiral and second term member of the House of Representatives, Joe Sestak was a moderate liberal candidate. Though Toomey attacked him for calling the economic stimulus package too small, Sestak continued to call for a "public option" in the health care overhaul, furthering his push for more government involvement in social and financial affairs.

The race was a quintessential division of left and right ideologies. Both parties attempted to portray the other's candidate as an out-of-control extremist, hoping to win the votes of a traditionally pragmatic state.

As the race heated up with Sestak defeating Specter, who had switched parties after a long

career as a Republican, Democrats were not optimistic about winning the seat.

However, Sestak made a strong push in mid-season polls and led for much of the early portion of Tuesday night before Toomey took the lead and ultimately won the highly contested title.

Jeremy Knout (sophomore-political science), who said he voted for Republican candidate Tuesday, said he's happy with Toomey's success.

"It's already been shown that more government regulation is not the answer," he said. "The stimulus didn't work. It's time to try something new."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

To e-mail reporter: [nwm5070@psu.edu](mailto:nwm5070@psu.edu)

# Local incumbents win races

By Vince D'Imperio and Matt Morgan  
FOR THE COLLEGIAN

Incumbents swept Centre County's midterm elections.

Republican State Senator Jake Corman and Democratic State House Representative Scott Conklin were re-elected in the 34th Senatorial District and the 77th Legislative District, respectively. They defeated challengers Jon Eich and Joyce Haas.

Kerry Benninghoff, the Republican state representative for the 171st district, ran unopposed for his seat. He also ran unopposed in the 2006 midterm election, when he won with 97 percent of the vote.

Conklin said he wanted to stress that no one who ran should be discouraged by the results.

"Regardless of the outcome, no one should hang their head at the end of the night," he said.

Corman spent Tuesday at the polls in Centre County and said he was "very excited with the win."

Corman said he will focus on pressing issues like unemployment, and as a Penn State alumnus, he will be dedicated to offering students at his alma mater the

best education at an affordable cost.

He proposed and helped in passing legislation that enabled college students to stay on their parents' health insurance until age 30 in Pennsylvania. He said he is in favor of lowering the cost of healthcare premiums.

One of Conklin's main priorities is to give the citizens of the state access to quality, affordable healthcare, he said, and he is also eager to work on tackling the multi-billion dollar deficit the state faces.

"Either way, I'm anxious to get to work," he said.

Conklin said he was pleased to have the chance to campaign for this seat as the incumbent in the race.

"It's been an opportunity that has been given to very few people," he said.

Eich was a proponent of universal healthcare and ensuring the Marcellus Shale industry develops in an effective way.

Today, he will return to work as a Centre County commissioner, he said.

Haas, a Penn State alumna, said she was in favor of lowering taxes to create more jobs.

"Lowering taxes creates a bet



Sarah Finnegan/Collegian

Scott Conklin, D-Pa., greets friends at a results party.

ter business atmosphere," she said. "Government can't create jobs, so the businesses have to."

Haas also stood for lowering the price of college tuition and cutting spending. She continues to support the Tuition Challenge Grant that would reward colleges for keeping their tuition low.

Collegian staff writer Casey McDermott contributed to this report.

# PENNSYLVANIA STATE AT THE POLLS

## Students, locals turn out for 2010 midterm elections

Despite a surge in student voter registration, Tuesday's turnout was relatively on par with past midterm elections.



Kelsey Morns/Collegian

A bike stands outside the HUB-Robeson Center to remind people to vote Tuesday.



Katie Silvis/Collegian

A student casts a ballot at the HUB-Robeson Center.



Katie Silvis/Collegian

Glenn Thompson observes his opponent, Michael Pipe.