



Washington State
School Directors' Association

Legislative Update

November 7, 2012

By [Marie Sullivan](#), WSSDA Director of Governmental Relations

A quick look at the 2012 election results

As of 11:30 p.m. November 6 (with no change at 6 a.m. Nov. 7), here's how the elections appear to be shaking out:

Governor's race

At the end of the evening, Democrat Jay Inslee led Republican Rob McKenna by about 50,000 votes in the race to replace Gov. Christine Gregoire. Gregoire served two terms and chose not to run again this year.

Senate races

Going into the 2012 election, Senate Democrats held a majority of 27-22 seats.

Republicans picked up an open seat previously held by a Democrat and Rep. Barbara Bailey, Republican, is leading long-time incumbent Sen. Mary Margaret Haugen, 10th, by nearly 3,000 votes. In addition, Republicans held onto one of their open seats, and Sen. Randi Becker, R-2nd, fended off a challenge from former Eatonville school director Bruce Lachney, Democrat.

For their part, Democrats held onto four of their five open Senate seats, flipped a Republican open seat (the 5th district), and had a slim lead over Republican incumbent Don Benton, R-17th. (Democratic challenger Rep. Tim Probst led by less than 200 votes.)

If results continue on the same trajectory, it would appear that Democrats will retain control of the Senate with the same majority.

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last session to pass a budget bill, among other issues, and at least three of the self-titled "Road-Kill Caucus" may continue to offer their support for a philosophical Republican majority.

Democrats are scheduled to hold an organizing meeting next week to consider leadership elections, including majority leader. Republicans will meet immediately prior to Legislative Assembly Days, which is the last week of November.

House races

Several House races were still too close to call when Legislative Update went to press. These include:

- Challengers Julie Olson, Republican, against Monica Stonier, Democrat, for the open seat in the 17th legislative district. (Probst)
- Republican Linda Kochmar leads Democrat Roger Flygare for an open seat in the 30th district (Miloscia).
- Rep. Kathy Haigh, D-35th, with a narrow lead over Republican Dan Griffey.
- Rep. Mark Hargrove, R-47th, with a slight margin over Democratic challenger Bud Sizemore.

Republicans look poised to pick up two House open seats. These include:

- Republican Steve O'Ban picking up the 28th district open seat (Kelley).
- Republican Drew MacEwen picking up the 35th district open seat (Finn).

However, first-term Rep. Katrina Asay, R-30th, was trailing Democratic opponent Roger Freeman by more than 2,500 votes. This would flip a Republican seat to the Democrats. And former Rep. Dawn Morrell, Democrat, looks set to win the open seat formerly held by Rep. Bruce Dammeier, R-25th. (Dammeier ran for the Senate when Sen. Jim Kastama's seat opened up.)

If votes continue along the same lines, the following open races appear to be ready to call, with no seats changing parties:

- Republican Gary Alexander for the 2nd district. (McCune redistricted seat)
- Democrat Marcus Ricelli for the 3rd district. (Billig)

- Republican Jeff Holy for the 6th district. (Ahearn)
- Republican Dave Hayes for the 10th district. (Bailey)
- Democrat Steve Bergquist for the 11th district. (Hasegawa)
- Republican Brandon Vick edging out Republican Adrian E. Cortes for the 18th district. (Orcutt redistricted seat)
- Republican Ed Orcutt for the 20th district. (Alexander redistricted seat)
- Democrat Jake Fey for the 27th district. (Darneille)
- Democrat David Sawyer for the 29th district. (Ladenberg)
- Democrat Gael Tarleton for the 36th district. (Dickerson)
- Republican Elizabeth Scott for the 39th district. (Pearson)
- Democrat Jessyn Farrell for the 46th district. (Kenney)
- Democrat Cyrus Habib for the 48th district. (Eddy)

One of the biggest upsets is the Republican against Republican challenge of Eastmont school director Brad Hawkins beating incumbent Mike Armstrong. Armstrong is a former Wenatchee school director.

Democrats started the election with a 56-42 majority, which could change by a handful of seats depending on additional vote counts.

House Republicans are scheduled to hold their organizing meeting next week. House Democrats will also meet this month to elect leadership and discuss committees.

Other statewide races

As mentioned in a previous Legislative Update, SPI Randy Dorn ran unopposed on the ballot after receiving more than 50 percent of the vote in the primary election.

Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, Democrat, looks headed to victory and will retain his post. During session Owen presides over the Senate.

Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark, Democrat, also appears to be successful in his re-election. Goldmark heads up the Department of Natural Resources, which manages trust lands for state beneficiaries, including Washington's public schools. (Timber sales are expected to generate about \$125 million for the upcoming biennium.)

And for the "Other Washington"

U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell, Democrat, will return to Washington, D.C.

Baumgartner is finishing his second year in the state legislature and had a “free ride” to run for the U.S. Senate without losing his current position.

In the 1st Congressional District, Democrat Suzan DelBene is leading Republican John Koster. DelBene is also leading for the “one-month” term made available when Inslee resigned from this seat.

Long-time congressman Norm Dicks endorsed state Sen. Derek Kilmer, D-26, as his replacement for the 6th congressional district. Kilmer was leading Republican Bill Driscoll by 58 percent.

And in the new 10th congressional district, Democrat Denny Heck was leading Republican Richard “Dick” Muri by 58 percent.

No surprises or upsets for the rest of the congressional delegation, which looks headed back to the other Washington once all the votes are tallied.

Charter school bill too close to call

As of this morning, the vote on I-1240, the bill to allow charter schools in Washington State, was still too close to call. It was leading statewide 51.2 percent to 48.8 percent. In King county, which accounted for about a third of the votes statewide left to count, it was trailing by a 51 to 49 percent margin.

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