

November 2010

## MIDTERM ELECTIONS RESULTS

### **A CLEAR REJECTION OF THE STATUS QUO, NO CONSENSUS ABOUT FUTURE POLICIES**

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1789/2010-midterm-elections-exit-poll-analysis>

Fueled by economic anxiety and unhappiness with Democratic stewardship of the country, an older and much more conservative electorate than in 2006 and 2008 propelled the Republican Party to a broad victory.

### **ELECTION RESULTS FUELED BY JOBS CRISIS AND VOTER APATHY AMONG PROGRESSIVES**

Center for American Progress, November 4, 2010

[http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2010/11/pdf/election\\_results.pdf](http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2010/11/pdf/election_results.pdf)

Experts and pundits will float many interpretations of the 2010 midterms over the next few weeks, each of which progressives should consider carefully. But the most parsimonious explanation of how 2010 unfolded in terms of lessons for progressives going forward lies in a few fundamental factors: the poor state of the economy; the abnormally conservative composition of the midterm electorate; and the large number of vulnerable seats in conservative-leaning areas. These trends cost the Democrats their House majority but were not strong enough to sweep them out in the Senate.

## **GENDER GAP WIDESPREAD IN 2010 ELECTIONS**

Center for American Women and Politics, November 4, 2010

[http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/press\\_room/news/documents/PressRelease\\_11-04-10-GG.pdf](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/press_room/news/documents/PressRelease_11-04-10-GG.pdf)

The gender gap – a measurable difference in the proportions of women and men who voted for the winning candidate – was at least as evident in 2010, a year of substantial Republican gains, as it was in 2008, a year when Democrats were elected in large numbers.

## **GOP DOMINATES GOVERNORS' RACES**

Pew Center on the States, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=525545>

The fortunes of Republicans in state government improved dramatically Tuesday night, as the Grand Old Party's nominees for governor reclaimed vast swaths of territory that Democrats staked out for the last decade. The most striking gains came in the West and the industrial Midwest. In several contests, Republican women and minorities made history by winning in their states.

## **IMMIGRATION AND THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS**

Council on Foreign Relations, October 27, 2010

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/23225/immigration\\_and\\_the\\_midterm\\_elections.html](http://www.cfr.org/publication/23225/immigration_and_the_midterm_elections.html)

As the U.S. population of illegal immigrants swelled over the past decade, Democrats and Republicans have attempted various iterations of immigration reform with little success. After Arizona's governor signed a controversial immigration law in April 2010--allowing law-enforcement officials to require paperwork proving people were in the United States legally--immigration reform was thrust back into the national conversation and became a flashpoint for the midterm elections.

## **THE LATINO VOTE IN THE 2010 ELECTIONS**

Pew Hispanic Center, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1790/2010-midterm-elections-exit-poll-hispanic-vote?src=prc-latest&proj=pej>

Tuesday's midterm elections were historic for Hispanics. For the first time ever, three Latino candidates -- all of them Republicans -- won top statewide offices. In New Mexico, voters elected the nation's first Latina governor, Republican Susana Martinez. In Nevada, Republican Brian Sandoval won

the governor's race and became Nevada's first Hispanic governor. And in Florida, Republican Marco Rubio won the U.S. Senate race.

### **MIDTERM ELECTIONS GENERATE RUSH OF IMMIGRATION MEASURES**

Migration Policy Institute, October 15, 2010

<http://www.migrationinformation.org/USfocus/display.cfm?ID=802>

With the midterm elections looming and Congress about to adjourn, influential senators on both sides of the aisle introduced immigration and national security bills in September, prompting widespread speculation about the deeper political calculations underlying the measures.

### **PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S FIRST TWO YEARS: POLICY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES**

The Brookings Institution, November 4, 2010

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/1104\\_obama\\_galston/1104\\_obama\\_galston.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2010/1104_obama_galston/1104_obama_galston.pdf)

During his first two years in office, President Barack Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress compiled a substantial record of policy accomplishment—the economic stimulus, bringing the financial system back from the brink of collapse, rescuing two automakers, universal health care, sweeping reform of financial regulation, and major changes in student loan programs, among many others. Nevertheless, the political standing of both the president and congressional Democrats slipped steadily through much of this period, and the voters administered a substantial rebuke in the November 2010 midterm elections.

### **RELIGION IN THE 2010 ELECTIONS**

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/1791/2010-midterm-elections-exit-poll-religion-vote?src=prc-latest&proj=pej>

Two of the largest religious groups in the electorate followed the same basic voting patterns in the 2010 elections for the U.S. House of Representatives as they have in prior elections: white Protestants voted overwhelmingly Republican and religiously unaffiliated voters cast their ballots overwhelmingly for Democrats. But Catholic voters, who had favored Democratic over Republican candidates by double-digit margins in the last two congressional elections, swung to the GOP in 2010.

## **REPUBLICAN WOMEN FOLLOW NATIONAL WINNING PATTERN**

Center for American Women and Politics, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

[http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/press\\_room/news/documents/PressRelease\\_11-03-10.pdf](http://www.cawp.rutgers.edu/press_room/news/documents/PressRelease_11-03-10.pdf)

One new woman, Republican Kelly Ayotte (NH), won a Senate seat. At least eight new Republican women, including one woman of color, will join the House of Representatives, besting the previous record of seven Republican newcomers in a single election. All three new women governors are Republicans, including two who won woman-versus-woman races. Two of the new governors are women of color, the first women of color to head state governments.

For Democrats, the picture was less rosy. Notably, the Democratic loss of control of the House means Rep. Nancy Pelosi (DCA) will lose her leadership role as Speaker of the House. As Speaker, Pelosi has been the highest-ranking elected woman in U.S. history. At least nine Democratic House incumbents lost their races, and no new Democratic women became senators or governors.

Four Democratic newcomers will join the U.S. House of Representatives. All are women of color, including three African-American women and one Asian-American woman.

## **SURVEY OF YOUNG AMERICANS' ATTITUDES TOWARD POLITICS AND PUBLIC SERVICE**

Institute of Politics, Harvard University, October 21, 2010

[http://www.iop.harvard.edu/var/ezp\\_site/storage/fckeditor/file/101021\\_IOP\\_Fall\\_10%20Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.iop.harvard.edu/var/ezp_site/storage/fckeditor/file/101021_IOP_Fall_10%20Report_FINAL.pdf)

Even the most casual followers of American politics know that 2008 was considered by many as the “Year of the Youth Vote.” According to the U.S. Census CPS Survey, 51.1 percent of 18 to 29 year old citizens cast a ballot in the 2008 election for President, an increase of two percentage points from the 2004 election.

With interest in political engagement, likelihood of voting and opinion of each of the major political parties and the President declining steadily in the last 13 months -- it may be fair to question whether 2010 will be the year that the youth did not vote.

## **VOTERS SEND MIXED MESSAGES ON BALLOT MEASURES**

Pew Center on the States, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

<http://www.stateline.org/live/details/story?contentId=525565>

Fiscal issues, more than social issues, dominated among the 160 ballot measures that voters weighed in on Election Day. Voters approved measures that could both help and hurt their states' bottom lines. The results are significant because states, a majority of which will have new governors at the helm, are preparing for yet another year of tight budgets and deficits and without the help of the federal stimulus

## **WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM SPLIT PARTY CONTROL ON CAPITOL HILL? LEGISLATIVE GRIDLOCK**

The Brookings Institution, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1103\\_congress\\_binder.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1103_congress_binder.aspx)

First, divided party control typically limits legislative accomplishments. Second, we know from the past half-century of Congressional history that partisan polarization dampens legislative compromise. The greater the ideological polarization (and sheer partisanship) in Congress, the less gets done.

## **WHAT THE MIDTERM ELECTIONS RESULTS MEAN FOR THE FUTURE OF HEALTH CARE REFORM**

The Brookings Institution, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2010

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1103\\_post\\_election\\_health\\_care\\_aron.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2010/1103_post_election_health_care_aron.aspx)

The voters have spoken, but it is not clear exactly what they said—at least about health care. When specifically asked, people have made clear in repeated surveys that they like the various elements of the health reform bill. But roughly half of the population is so unsure about what the whole bill portends that they say they would prefer to stick with the status quo, which repeated polls indicate they also recognize as unsatisfactory.

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<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>