

update

Michael J. O'Connor, President

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A Historic Election Day in Virginia

The next four years will mean that Democrats will continue to hold the offices of Governor, Lieutenant governor and Attorney General, but the margins of victory for Ralph Northam, Justin Fairfax and Mark Herring far surpassed that of four years ago. Virtually no one predicted that the election would be an almost ten-point victory for Governor-elect Northam, and his margin of victory in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax means that Republicans will need to find a new pathway to victory in subsequent statewide elections. We were disappointed to see Jill Vogel lose the lieutenant governors' race, but extremely proud of the issue oriented race she ran and look forward to her continued service in the state Senate.

Tsunami Hits House of Delegates

Yesterday, the makeup of the Virginia House of Delegates stood at 66 Republicans and 34 Democrats. This afternoon it stands at 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats. Every incumbent Republican facing a serious challenger lost. Three of those seats will go to recount, all held by Republicans.

- District 2: OPEN Jennifer Foy
- District 10: ~~Randy Minchew~~ Wendy Gooditis
- District 12: ~~Joseph Yost~~ Christ Hurst
- District 13: ~~Bob Marshall~~ Danica Roem
- District 21: ~~Ron Villanuava~~ Kelly Convirs-Fowler
- District 31: ~~Scott Lingamfelter~~ Elizabeth Guzman
- District 32: ~~Tag Greason~~ David Reid
- District 40: ~~Tim Hugo~~ Donte Tanner

- District 42: OPEN Kathy Tran
- District 50: ~~Jackson Miller~~ Lee Carter
- District 51: ~~Richard Anderson~~ Hala Alaya
- District 67: ~~Jim LeMunyon~~ Karrie Delaney
- District 68: ~~Manoli Loupassi~~ Dawn Adams
- District 72: OPEN Skyler VanValkenburg
- District 73: ~~John O'Bannon~~ Debra Rodman
- District 85: ~~Rocky Holcomb~~ Cheryl Turpin

Thank you Trip Perrin of Lindl Corp. for the above list.

Barring Republicans convincing a Democrat to switch parties, it appears today that their best hope is for a 50-50 split (assuming the Democratic candidate does not win the recount where Delegate Yancey has a tenuous 12 vote lead) which would lead to proportional representation on committees. Were that to occur it is likely that we would see a Democratic majority of one on half the committees and a Republican majority of one on the other half. Who would become Speaker (controlling all committee appointments) remains the ultimate wild card, but the long-anticipated ascension of House Majority Leader Kirk Cox appears unlikely today, unless it is in some form of power sharing plan. What does this mean for us? Fortunately, the issues we are involved with are almost always nonpartisan and we have consciously avoided highly charged social or economic issues where votes are divided strictly by party. Rather the biggest part of our job will likely be to educate what could be a dozen new Finance Committee members on the intricacies of Virginia's fuels tax laws or the same number of General Laws committee members on ABC issues impacting off premises licensees. A new day will dawn over the capitol on January 10th. As always, our greatest strength lies in you, the membership, and your willingness to contact your legislators when the need arises. We look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

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