



2008, Issue 8

Overview

The Republican Maine Street Partnership PAC was fortunate to see victories by many of the candidates we supported. Thank you to everyone to provided financial support for our efforts and congratulations to the successes of a large number of outstanding candidates.

Democrats gained 20 seats in the House of Representatives, moving their overall total to 255 seats, with several races scheduled for runoffs or too close to call. This provides the Democrats with their largest majority since 1994, when they held 259 seats. While the large loss in seats is disappointing, many political experts were predicting more significant losses. In addition, the strong victory by Senator Obama did not appear to sweep a large number of Democrats into office.

In the Senate, Democrats gained six seats, moving their total to 57, with the races in Alaska and Minnesota still too close to call and the Georgia seat heading to a runoff. Again, a strong performance by several candidates prevented the Democrats from reaching their goal of a 60 seat majority.

Maine

Senator Susan Collins scored a smashing win, receiving 61% of the vote against Congressman Tom Allen. Collins won despite an Obama majority of 58%, and actually received over 21,000 more votes than the Democratic Presidential nominee. Both House seats stayed in Democratic hands, further demonstrating the political strength of Senator Collins.

Minnesota

Senator Norm Coleman leads Democrat Al Franken by just over 200 votes out of about 2.4 million cast. A recount is underway which could last for several weeks. It is unclear as to when this race will be officially over. Senator Obama won 54% of the vote in Minnesota, so the strong showing of Senator Coleman is a good indication of his effectiveness.

Ohio

In the 15th District race to succeed Congresswoman Deborah Pryce, Republican **State Sen. Steve Stivers** continues to cling to a narrow lead over Democrat Mary Jo Kilroy, a county commissioner. Thousands of provisional ballots remain to be counted. Over 1,000 voters in Franklin County submitted timely absentee ballots but forgot to either sign their ballot envelopes or supply a driver's license or Social Security number. These voters were allowed until November 14th to appear at the county election office and sign their ballots or provide the missing ID number to have their absentee envelopes opened and counted. Election officials will also start counting the 27,306 provisional votes on Saturday but won't release the final results until it certifies the election sometime around Thanksgiving.

New Jersey

State Rep. Leonard Lance retained this Republican seat in the Lehigh Valley area, winning by 51%-41%. While Lance was outspent almost two to one, he won based on being a strong environmentalist, a fiscal conservative and a social moderate.

Kansas

State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins defeated incumbent Rep. Nancy Boyda by 51%-46%, in one of the few races where an incumbent Democrat lost. Jenkins, a Certified Public Accountant, won on the theme of lower taxes and reduced spending. She received many strong endorsements, with the Kansas City Star calling her “an energetic and capable officeholder, (who) speaks with enthusiasm about confronting national problems.”

Other key victories include strong performances by Reps. Judy Biggert (IL), Brian Bilbray (CA), Mary Bono Mack (CA), Ginny Brown-Waite (FL), Ken Calvert (CA), Dave Camp (MI), Shelly Moore Capito (WV), Mike Castle (DE), Charlie Dent (PA), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (FL), Mario Diaz-Balart (FL), Vern Ehlers (MI), Jo Ann Emerson (MO), Rodney Frelinghuysen (NJ), Jim Gerlach (PA), Tim Johnson (IL), Mark Kirk (IL), Steve LaTourette (OH), Jerry Lewis (CA), Tom Petri (WI), Todd Platts (PA), Dave Reichert (WA), Pat Tiberi (OH), Mike Turner (OH), Fred Upton (MI), Greg Walden (OR) and Frank Wolf (VA).

Many of these victories were achieved notwithstanding a strong showing in their district by Senator Obama.

RMSP supported candidates who were defeated include Reps. Chris Shays (CT), Phil English (PA), Joe Knollenberg (MI), Randy Kuhl (NY), Jon Porter (NV) and Senator Gordon Smith.