



## California Election Analysis and 2014 Issues

On November 4<sup>th</sup>, 100 of the 120 State Legislative seats were on the ballot before the voters of the respective districts. The voter turnout was extremely low, and as anticipated this low turnout served to benefit Republicans. Democrats have lost seats in both the Senate and Assembly and will no longer hold a supermajority in either house.

County election officials must submit final certified results to the Secretary of State by December 5<sup>th</sup>. The Secretary of State then has until December 12<sup>th</sup> to certify all elections. Although as of December 2<sup>nd</sup> three small counties have not yet reported their final election results, however those outcomes will not affect the final outcome of any contest.

### Statewide Contests & State Ballot Initiatives

As expected, Democratic Governor Jerry Brown defeated Republican challenger Neel Kashkari and won re-election to his historic 4<sup>th</sup> term. All the Constitutional Offices will also continue to be held by Democrats:

- Lt. Governor: Gavin Newsom
- Treasurer: John Chiang
- Insurance Commissioner: Dave Jones
- Attorney General: Kamala Harris
- Controller: Betty Yee
- Superintendent of Public Instruction: Tom Torlakson
- Secretary of State: Alex Padilla

Voters approved the following ballot measures:

- *Proposition 1 - Funding Water Quality, Supply, Treatment, Storage*

Authorizes \$7.5 billion in bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, including surface and groundwater storage, ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration, and drinking water protection. Democrats, Republicans, the California Farm Bureau and environmental groups supported the initiative.

- *Proposition 2 - The Rainy Day Budget Stabilization Act*

Establishes a strong economic rainy day fund in the State Constitution that will require the Legislature and Governor to save money and pay down debt during prosperous economic years. Both Democrats and Republicans supported the measure.

- *Proposition 47 - Criminal Sentences, Misdemeanor Penalties*

Requires misdemeanor sentences instead of felony for criminal offenders who commit certain



non-serious and non-violent drug and property crimes. The States' savings that will result from releasing some inmates will be used to support school truancy prevention, dropout prevention services, and mental health and drug abuse treatment programs. Local and State elected officials, the California Public Defenders Association, school districts and faith based organizations supported the measure. The California Police Chiefs Association, California District Attorneys Association, and the California Chamber of Commerce opposed the measure raising concerns about the potential release of 10,000 felons from State prison.

Voters rejected:

- *Proposition 45 - Healthcare Insurance Rate Changes*

Required the California Insurance Commissioner's approval before health insurers can change their rates or anything else affecting the charges associated with health insurance. The initiative was supported by the California Democratic Party, and consumer organizations. The measure was strongly opposed by physicians, hospitals, the California Chamber of Commerce, and some labor organizations because it gave unlimited control to the California Insurance Commissioner. Currently, California has in place a successful independent commission that reviews rates.

- *Proposition 46 - Doctor Drug Testing, Medical Negligence*

Required drug testing of doctors. Required review of statewide prescription database before prescribing controlled substances. Sought to quadruple existing \$250,000 pain/suffering cap in medical negligence lawsuits. The California Consumers Attorney funded the initiative, which was overwhelmingly defeated by a well-organized coalition of physicians, dentists, hospitals, labor organizations, and insurance companies.

- *Proposition 48 - Indian Gaming Compacts Referendum*

Asked the voters to consider approving the tribal gaming compact between the State of California and the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians and the Wiyot Tribe that was approved by the California Legislature and signed by Governor Brown. The Governor supported the initiative because the construction of a casino would have created jobs in one of the Central Valley's poorest regions. Opponents, including local governments and newspapers opposed the measure because it allowed for the first time the creation of a casino on an off-reservation property. Local tribes also opposed the measure to prevent any competition.

**California State Senate - Democrats: 25, Republicans: 14, Vacancies\*: 1 (Reps -- +1 SD 34)**

(\*The Governor has announced a special election to fill the vacancy created by Senator Wright's resignation. Vacancy to be decided in special election: primary to be held December 9<sup>th</sup> with a general to follow on February 10<sup>th</sup> if a candidate does not emerge from the primary with 50% +1. Additionally, with Senators Knight, DeSaulnier and Walters' election to congress, additional special elections will be called in the coming months.)



Republicans used recent corruption scandals to successfully prevent Democrats from retaining a supermajority in the Senate.

- In SD 34, Orange County Republican Janet Nguyen defeated Democrat Jose Solorio. Nguyen by 16.2%.
- In SD 14, Republican incumbent Andy Vidak defeated Democrat Luis Chavez. Kings County once again voted heavily for Andy Vidak to return him to the Senate for 4 more years. Vidak by 8.2%.

### **California State Assembly – Democrats: 52, Republicans: 28 (Reps -- +3 AD 36, AD 65; AD 66)**

With votes cast at the polls, provisional and absentee ballots counted, Democrats have lost three incumbent seats in the State Assembly.

- In AD 36, incumbent Democrat Steve Fox lost to Republican challenger Tom Lackey. Lackey by 20.4%.
- In AD 65, incumbent Democrat Sharon Quirk-Silva lost to Republican challenger Young Kim. Kim by 9.2%.
- In AD 66, incumbent Democrat Al Muratsuchi lost to Republican challenger David Hadley by 706 votes. Hadley by 0.6%.

Prior to the election, Assembly Democrats held 55 seats. The races referenced above reduce the number of Democratic seats to 52, which is two seats below the 54 needed to have a supermajority.

As a result of the open primary, two races pitted a Democrat against a Democratic.

- In AD 39, Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra lost to Democratic challenger Patty Lopez by 466 votes. Lopez by 1%.
- In AD 17<sup>th</sup>, Democrat David Chiu defeated Democrat David Campos. Chiu by 2.2%.

Assembly Democrats scored victories in the following hotly contested races:

- In AD 8, incumbent Democrat Ken Cooley defeated Republican challenger Douglas Haaland. This was a target seat for Republicans since they lost it in 2012. Cooley by 13.4%.
- In AD 21, incumbent Democrat Adam Gray defeated Republican challenger Jack Mobley. The race made headlines in the final weeks of the campaign as a result of late financial support for the Republican challenger. Democrats redirected resources in order to keep the seat. Gray by 6.8%.
- In AD 32, incumbent Democrat Rudy Salas defeated Republican challenger Pedro Rios. Salas by 9.6%.
- In AD 57, Assemblymember Ian Calderon (D) was expected to have a tough race as a result of the federal criminal charges against his uncles, former State Senator Ron Calderon and former State Assemblymember Tom Calderon. However, Calderon defeated Republican challenger Rita Topalian (R) by 1,887 votes. Calderon by 3%.



## U.S. Congress

Republicans picked up 7 seats nationally to take control of the Senate. Now, Republicans have a majority in both houses. In California, there were several Congressional races that attracted national media attention due to the amount of resources spent by both Democrats and Republicans.

- In CD 7, incumbent Democrat Ami Bera defeated Republican challenger Doug Ose. Bera by 0.8%.
- In CD 16, incumbent Democrat Jim Costa defeated Republican challenger Johnny Tacherra. Costa by 1.4%.
- In CD 17, Mike Honda defeated Ro Khanna in the Democratic intra-party fight. Honda by 3.6%.
- In CD 25, Republican California State Senator Steve Knight defeated former California State Legislator Tony Strickland, also a Republican. Knight by 6.6%.
- In CD 26, incumbent Democrat Julia Brownley defeated Republican challenger Jeff Gorell. Brownley by 2.6%.
- In CD 52, Democrat Scott Peters defeated Republican Carl DeMaio. Peters by 3.2%.