

# Legislative Solutions



## State Election Report



**M**any Races come down to the wire - In addition to the historically close call in the Presidential race, an unprecedented number of state races remain hotly contested. The most bizarre situation took place this November in Missouri.

The untimely death of Governor Mel Carnahan (D) threw the entire state into uncertainty.

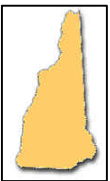


Governor Carnahan was in a close race for the state's U.S. Senate seat against incumbent Senator John Ashcroft (R) and remained on the ballot for the November election. Upon his death, former Lt. Governor Roger Wilson (D) became Governor and announced he would appoint Jean Carnahan, the former Governor's wife to his Senate seat if Carnahan won the election. This unusual situation overshadowed the critical race to become the new Governor of Missouri between U.S. Representative Jim Talent (R) and the state's Treasurer Bob Holden (D), which was finally called this morning.

In ten of the Gubernatorial elections, the party in power has remained in control, but West Virginia showed its two term Republican Governor Cecil Underwood the door. U.S. Representative Bob Wise (D) ran a tough race and called on influential friends such as Sen. Byrd (D) and Sen. Rockefeller (D) to stump on his behalf. The efforts paid off in another close victory.



In New Hampshire, Gov. Jeanne Shaheen (D) won re-election from Republican Gordon



Humphrey who served two terms as a U.S. Senator in the 1970s and 1980s. Humphrey promised to keep the state income tax free despite an impending \$200 million shortfall in school funding aid, while Shaheen had refused to take such a pledge.<sup>i</sup> Her refusal to pledge no new taxes was expected to be her undoing, but voters decided her position was reasonable and re-elected her with 49% of the vote.

### Balance of the Governors' Mansions:

	Old	New	Change
Dem:	18	19	+1
GOP:	30	29	-1
Ind:	2	2	-

**DE Ruth Ann Minner (D) 60% ✓**  
John Burris (R) 40%

**IN Frank O'Bannon (D) 56% ✓**  
Dave McIntosh (R) 42%

**MO Bob Holden (D) 50%**  
Jim Talent (R) 49%

**MT Mark O'Keefe (D) 47%**  
**Judy Martz (R) 52% ✓**

**NH Jeanne Shaheen (D) 49% ✓**  
Gordon Humphrey (R) 44%

**NC Mike Easley (D) 52% ✓**  
Richard Vinroot (R) 46%

**ND Heidi Heitkamp (D) 45%**  
**John Hoeven (R) 55% ✓**

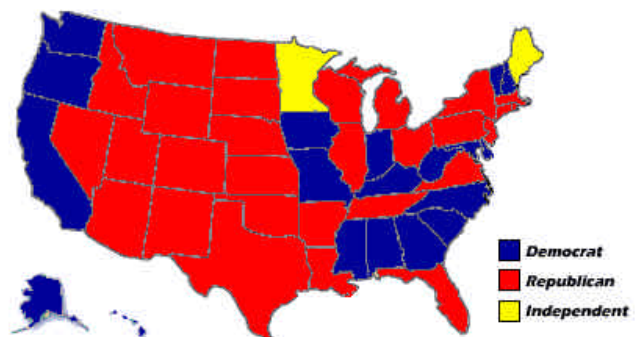
**UT Bill Orton (D) 43%**

**VT Mike Leavitt (R) 56% ✓**  
**Howard Dean (D) 51% ✓**

**WA Gary Locke (D) 59% ✓**  
John Carlson (R) 40%

**WV Bob Wise (D) 50% ✓**  
Cecil Underwood (R) 48%

### Partisan Control of Governors' Mansions



<sup>i</sup> "Governor's victory puts Pledge to rest," *Concord Monitor*, by Lisa Wangness, November 8, 2000.

**The theme of the elections is indecisiveness** - As of this morning, 15 states have split party control, when one party controls the House and the other the Senate. Democrats had controlled 19 state houses and Republicans 17, but last night's elections ended with Democrats controlling 16 and Republicans 17 while Washington state remains too close to call. Of course Nebraska is unicameral and non-partisan.

Continuing the theme of the day, the Arizona and Missouri Senates ended in a tie between the parties. The Missouri Senate however will end up in the Republican's hands once three incumbent senators, (2 Democrats and 1 Republican), who ran successfully for higher office resign their seats.



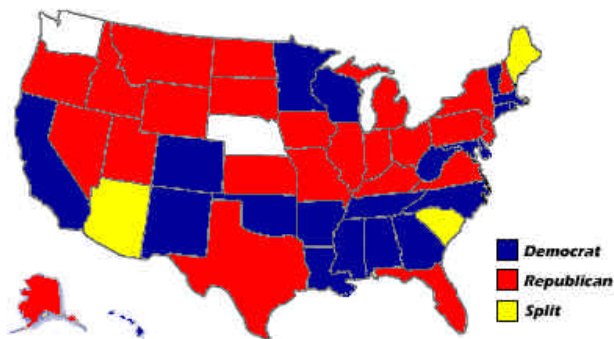
One of the more colorful situations in state politics has been in Pennsylvania. A series of scandals and resignations whittled the Republican's slim, three-seat margin in the House down to zero in recent months. Last night however, they regained their lead with a 103 – 99 seat majority giving Gov. Ridge (R) complete party control of the state.



It appeared that Republican's control of Colorado was assured for redistricting, important considering the state is expected to gain a U.S. House seat. However this was not to be. For the first time in 40 years, Democrats have taken a slim majority (18-17) in the state Senate upsetting Republican redistricting plans.



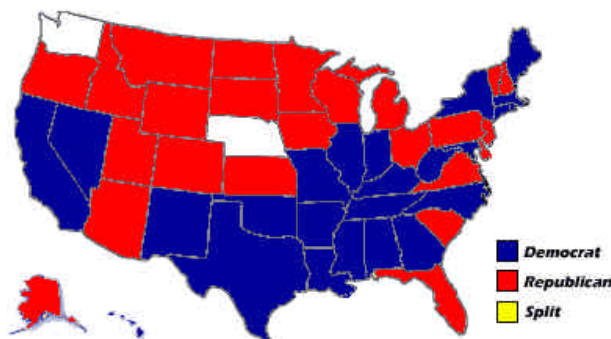
## Partisan Control of the State Senates



States where control of the Senate changed hands:

- AZ (formerly Republican, now split)
  - CO (formerly Republican, now Democrat)
  - ME (formerly Democrat, now split)
  - MO (formerly Democrat, now split - however two Democrats and one Republican are moving to higher offices which will leave the Republicans with the majority)
  - NH (formerly split, now Republican)
  - South Carolina (formerly Democrat, now split)
- ❖ Nebraska is a non-partisan Unicameral Legislature
- ❖ Washington is undecided at this time

## Partisan Control of the State Houses



States where control of the House changed hands:

- PA (formerly split, now Republican)
  - VT (formerly Democrat, now Republican)
- ❖ Nebraska is a non-partisan Unicameral Legislature
- ❖ Washington is undecided at this time

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*State election results as reported by the National Conference of State Legislators.*