

Legislative Solutions

★ 2001 State Election Report ★

Yesterday's Off-Year Elections Produce Mixed Results for Both Parties -

Typically off-year elections are a preview of what is to come in the next year's elections. This year, mixed results give hope to Democrats' bid for a take over on Capitol Hill and will strengthen the resolve of Republicans to maintain power.

In **New Jersey**, James McGreevey, the 44-year-old Democratic mayor of Woodbridge, wrestled the Governor's mansion from a divided Republican party. Throughout the campaign, acting Governor Donald DiFrancesco (R) and Republican gubernatorial candidate Bret Schundler were at odds since the bitterly contested primary elections. Once the die was cast on a Democratic victory, the two Republicans lashed out at each other for causing the party's fall from power.

More important to Governor-elect McGreevey than who caused the Republican downfall was the fact that Democrats won control of the Assembly for the first time in a decade. In addition to gaining control of the Assembly, it appears that they have forced at least a 20-20 tie in the Senate with one race still being contested. This may force an uncomfortable power-sharing arrangement in the Senate as Democrat and Republican leaders lobby for one swing vote to give them the Presidency of the Senate.

Across the Hudson River, Republican Michael Bloomberg will lead **New York City** through this time of recovery as the city's 108th Mayor. Bloomberg defeated Democrat Mark Green 50%-47%. In one of the most expensive campaigns in the city's history, the Republican Party will retain control of City Hall for at least four more years when Mayor Rudy Giuliani (R) passes the office to Mayor-elect Bloomberg.

In **Virginia**, a Democrat will be taking up residence in the Governor's mansion. Democratic challenger Mark Warner won the Governorship from Republican Attorney General Mark Earley by a 5% margin. Warner's victory ends eight years of Republicans in the Governor's Mansion

and a streak during which Republicans won seven of nine statewide races.

Governor-elect Warner must work with a Republican legislature that strengthened its power last night. The Republicans picked up 12 seats in the House of Delegates, leaving them only 2 votes short of a veto-proof majority. Such split control will force both parties to work together at a time when partisan bickering between parties and between the Senate and House resulted in a budget stalemate.

Warner's victory overturns a strong Republican trend in Virginia politics. Democrats hope that Warner's victory will reverse the Republicans' recent dominance, but Republicans have a different viewpoint. According to House Speaker Vance Wilkins (R), "Most of my Republican candidates ran as Republicans and they won...Warner ran as a Republican and he won."



Virginia Results: VA Legislature

	House		Senate
	Pre-Elec	Post-Elec	No Elec
Democrats	47	35	17
Republicans	52	64	22
Independent	1	1	1 Vacant



New Jersey Results: NJ Legislature

	House		Senate	
	Pre-Elec	Post-Elec	Pre-Elec	Post-Elec
Democrats	35	44*	16	20*
Republicans	45	36*	24	20*
Independent	0	0	0	0

*Results are unofficial

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