

## **Roundup from the Ground Up**

# DEMOCRATS INCREASE MAJORITY TO 29

### **Democratic Governors Expand Majority; Poised to Work With Obama Administration.**

After Tuesday night's resounding victories have brought the number of Democratic Governors to the highest level since 1994, the DGA stands ready to work with President-elect Barack Obama. On Tuesday, **Democrats won seven of the eleven races for Governor this year.** National Republicans targeted three races – Missouri, Washington, and North Carolina – and lost each of them by significant margins. <http://democraticgovernors.org/>

## **WINNING ELECTIONS**

**Cook Political Report: Dems Score Net Gain.** Democrats scored a net gain of one seat, picking up the open seat in Missouri with Attorney General Jay Nixon's solid 58-percent to 40-percent victory over GOP Rep. Kenny Hulshof. Apart from their win in Missouri, the highlight of the Democratic Governors Association's night had to be re-electing Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire and holding the open seat in North Carolina. <http://www.cookpolitical.com/node/3557>

**In a Landslide, Gregoire Secures Second Term.** After being dramatically outspent by national Republicans and ultra-conservative special interests, Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire surged to an easier-than-predicted victory over Dino Rossi. Her lead grew to 54 percent to 46 percent as quickly as Wednesday afternoon. <http://www.theolympian.com/localnewsfeed/story/651785.html>

**Perdue Wins Hotly Contested, GOP-Targeted Governor's Seat.** National Republicans came up short in what was considered to be their best chance of a pick-up opportunity. Bev Perdue was elected North Carolina's first female governor Tuesday 50-47 percent. [http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20081105/NEWS/811050987/1144?Title=Perdue\\_elected\\_NC\\_s\\_first\\_female\\_governor](http://www.blueridgenow.com/article/20081105/NEWS/811050987/1144?Title=Perdue_elected_NC_s_first_female_governor)

**Nixon Trounces Hulshof in Big Gubernatorial Win.** Continuing the trend of flipping governorships from red to blue, Jay Nixon won Missouri's race with 58 percent of the vote, 18 points more than Republican Kenny Hulshof, a six-term congressman who gave up his seat to run for governor. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics/story/876123.html>

**Manchin Easily Wins Re-election in West Virginia.** Gov. Joe Manchin easily won re-election, earning 70% of the vote, 44 points more than his opponent.  
<http://www.wvpubcast.org/newsarticle.aspx?id=5924>

**Schweitzer Handily Wins in Montana.** Gov. Brian Schweitzer easily defeated Republican challenger Roy Brown of Billings in his bid for re-election. Schweitzer led by a margin of 65 percent to Brown's 33 percent.  
<http://www.greatfallstribune.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081105/NEWS01/811050301>

**Resounding Victory for Lynch's Third Term.** New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch looked back at past achievements and forward to the future as he won a third term in a landslide victory over Republican state Sen. Joe Kenney. Lynch beat Kenney 70-28 percent.  
<http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081105/NEWS01/811050358>

**Markell Wins by 36 Points.** Delaware voters elected Jack Markell their next governor with the equivalent of two exclamation points Tuesday, choosing him by a more than 2-to-1 margin over Republican Bill Lee.  
<http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20081105/NEWS02/811050358>

## Who's Counting?

- ✓ 29                      **Number of Democratic Governors after inaugurations**
- ✓ 362                    **Days until the 2009 gubernatorial elections in New Jersey and Virginia**

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