



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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Dear NAPO Members:

The midterm elections have been held, and while there are still a few races that are too close to call, and at least one run-off election to be held, the overall results are very clear, the Republican party will gain control of the U.S. Senate with at least a 7 seat (perhaps as high as 9 seat) pick up, and the Republican party will also increase their hold on the U.S. House of Representatives with perhaps 245 or 246 seats. Obviously President Obama still controls the White House and the veto power over any legislation that will pass.

What can we expect?

First of all, the coming lame duck session (the new Republican majorities will not be seated until the new Congress convenes in January) may be very bumpy. Democrats, especially on the Senate side, may feel they have only a few short weeks left in which to try to push through nomination confirmations and legislation that would not withstand a Republican majority. One balance against this tendency would be concern by Democrats who will face reelection bids in 2016 that they not give their opponents ammo to use against them by pushing through initiatives or confirming nominations that will prove unpopular back home. Current Senate Majority Leader Reid is reported today to already be trying to distance himself from blame for loss of the Senate, preferring to blame the president. On the House side, Republican leadership may also feel themselves vulnerable to additional challenges from the Right if they seem too willing to compromise with the Obama administration.

For the next, 114th Congress, we can expect Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell to take over as Senate Majority Leader. NAPO already has a very good working relationship with Senator McConnell's staff, and his legislative counsel, Russell Coleman, was one of the staff members we honored at this year's NAPO Legislative Day on the Hill. Senator John Cornyn of Texas, with whom we also have a very good working relationship, can also be expected to take on a new leadership role in the new Senate. It is unclear at this time if Senator Reid will remain as Minority Leader. On the House side, it looks like Ohio Representative John Boehner will remain as Speaker. Mr. Boehner may feel himself under continuing pressure from more conservative members of his party to move his legislative agenda further to the Right. The result of these changes will make it more difficult to pass improved labor legislation, and we can expect to be playing more defense than offense as regards labor issues. On the other hand, the criminal justice issues that are important to NAPO members and officers will have a friendlier reception with the new Congress. Many of these issues already enjoy bipartisan support in this Congress, and we can expect this to continue on the criminal justice side.

Finally, the Obama administration is currently indicating that they do not intend to change course or back down from their political priorities. This may include Executive Orders and “acting” appointments in various executive departments (which do not need to win Senate confirmation). If, as is anticipated, these executive actions include substantial changes in immigration enforcement policy, you can expect an outcry from newly elected Republicans and even many Democrats who fear being blamed or associated with the president’s policies.

Below is a summary of key races compiled this morning that helps to highlight many of these areas.

- Republicans claimed Democratic Senate seats in North Carolina, Colorado, Iowa, West Virginia, Arkansas, Montana, and South Dakota to gain their first Senate majority since 2006.
 - In North Carolina, Republican Thom Tillis came from behind to beat Senator Kay Hagan.
 - Representative Cory Gardner, a Republican, beat Senator Mark Udall in Colorado.
 - Representative Bruce Braley lost to Iraq war veteran Joni Ernst, who became the first woman elected to Congress from her state.
 - In West Virginia, Republican Shelley Moore Capito, won the Senate seat long held by Jay Rockefeller, a Democrat.
 - In Arkansas, Representative Tom Cotton, a freshman Republican, defeated Senator Mark Pryor.
 - Republican Steve Daines defeated Amanda Curtis in the Montana Senate race.
 - Republican Mike Rounds defeated Democrat Rick Weiland in the South Dakota Senate race.
- Additional Senate election results are below:
 - Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY) was reelected, and is expected to become the next Senate Majority Leader.
 - In the Georgia Senate race, Democrat Michelle Nunn, lost to David Purdue, who won by more than half of the vote.
 - Senator Pat Roberts, a Kansas Republican, beat Independent challenger Greg Orman.
 - Senator Jeanne Shaheen, the Democratic incumbent, fended off Scott Brown in the New Hampshire race.
 - There will be a runoff in Louisiana on December 6th, between Democratic Senator Mary Landrieu and Republican challenger Bill Cassidy.
- With at least a nine-seat gain, House Republicans will have close to 245 seats, the largest Republican majority since the Truman Administration.

- Highlights from Governor races are below:
 - In Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf, a Democrat, defeated Republican Governor, Tom Corbett.
 - Two high profile Republican governors won reelection – John Kasich in swing state Ohio and Republican Scott Walker in Wisconsin.
 - In New Mexico, Republican Governor Susana Martinez won reelection.
 - In Maryland, a traditionally Democratic state, elected Republican Larry Hogan as governor.
 - In Illinois, Bruce Rauner defeated incumbent Democratic Governor Pat Quinn.

NAPO continues to engage Hill staffers to ensure our priorities remain at the top of the agenda through the Lame Duck session and into the 114th Congress. We will keep our members updated as we move forward.

Sources:

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