



House to Dems; Senate close

Mitchell poised for House; Kyl keeps Senate

by Matt Stone
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Democrats made a clean sweep in District 17 Tuesday night as all congressional seats went blue. As for the U.S. Congress, the results were not so decisive.

Democrat Harry Mitchell trailed Republican Rep. J.D. Hayworth early but led by eight points - 52 percent to Hayworth's 44 percent - Tuesday night. Libertarian candidate Warren Severin received about 3 percent of the votes with 98 percent of the precincts reporting.

"I'm confident that once the votes are counted we're going to have a new congressman from this district," Mitchell said.

In the U.S. Senate race, Democratic challenger Jim Pederson conceded to Sen. Jon Kyl shortly before 10 p.m.

Kyl received more than 52 percent of the votes, while Pederson received about 44 percent, with 92 percent of the precincts reporting. Libertarian Richard Mack received a little more than 3 percent of the votes.

Kyl said that the loss of Republican control in the House means the GOP will have work to do before the 2008 elections.

"Republicans have made some mistakes," Kyl said. "We have some adjusting to do, and we need to reflect on that."

Despite the loss, Pederson said he hoped to see Arizona improve.

"This state needs to come together," Pederson said. "Republicans, Democrats, independents - all of them - and we need to work on the problems of Arizona."

In state legislative District 17, Democrats knocked out their Republican counterparts.

Democrats Ed Ableser and Dave Schapira defeated Republican opponents Dale Despain and Laura Knaperek for seats in the state House.

Ableser, a former ASU student, said student support made the difference.

"If it wasn't for the Young Democrats, we would've lost this race," Ableser said.

Democrat Meg Burton-Cahill won in the state Senate, defeating Republican Rose Crutcher.

With almost 92 percent of the precincts reporting, Gov. Janet Napolitano continued the winning streak, beating out Republican challenger Len Munsil with 63 percent of the votes to his 35 percent. Libertarian candidate Barry Hess had about 2 percent of the vote.

Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard, who also was re-elected, said Napolitano's margin of victory was a message.

"Arizona just gave itself a raise," Goddard said. "They want to see leaders who will make this state all that it can be."

The state had 19 propositions on the ballot this election year, with several relating to issues of illegal immigration.

Proposition 300 passed at 71 percent with 92 percent of the precincts reporting. Under the proposition, illegal immigrants can't earn in-state status at colleges and universities.

There were two major smoking propositions on the ballot - 201 and 206. With almost 93 percent of the precincts reporting, Proposition 201 passed with 54 percent of the votes. The proposition bans smoking in most indoor establishments. Proposition 206, rejected by more than 57 percent of voters, would have banned smoking in indoor places except for bars and restaurants with separately ventilated sections.

Proposition 107 was rejected by almost 52 percent of the voters, with 93 percent of the precincts reporting. The proposition would have limited benefits for unmarried couples.

Results for all propositions can be seen at www.azsos.gov.

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Deanna Dent / THE STATE PRESS

Democrats cheer as Gov. Janet Napolitano takes the stage along with Attorney General Terry Goddard during Tuesday evening's election night party in downtown Phoenix.



Christopher Atwood / THE STATE PRESS

Senator John McCain congratulates newly re-elected Senator Jon Kyl at the Republican watch party in Scottsdale Tuesday night.

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