

DEMOCRATS MAINTAIN CONTROL OF LEGISLATURE

Democrats were successful in holding onto the majorities in both the Senate and General Assembly in yesterday's election. The balance of power in the General Assembly will be 48 - 32 (currently 47 Democrats – 33 Republicans) after picking up one seat in Legislative District 4 when the 215th Legislative Session convenes on January 11, 2012. In the Senate Democrats will maintain a 24 – 16 majority.

Several races in South Jersey were competitive in this election cycle. The most competitive race in South Jersey was in Legislative District 2 (part of Atlantic County). The race for the Senate featured incumbent Democratic Senator Jim Whelan challenged by Republican Assemblyman Vincent Polistina. This has been a heated race throughout the fall with polling up to the election showing a dead heat between the two lawmakers. Ultimately Senator Whelan won re-election.

The race for the two Assembly seats in Legislative District 2 has also been very close. Incumbent Republican Assemblyman John Amodeo and attorney Chris Brown faced Democratic Freeholder Alisa Cooper and attorney Damon Tyner, with Amodeo and Brown victorious.

In District 3, Senate President Stephen Sweeney was easily re-elected. Democratic Assemblyman John Burzichelli and Assemblywoman Celeste Riley were challenged by the republicans, Assemblyman Dominic DeCicco and Dr. Robert Villare. (Assemblyman DeCicco was moved into District 3 during redistricting). Polling shortly before the election had the Republican challengers within three points of the incumbents, but Burzichelli and Riley were victorious.

In District 4 Democrats easily won the open Assembly seat vacated by Assemblyman DeCicco, with Assemblyman Paul Moriarty handily winning re-election and newcomer Gabriela Mosquera winning the open seat. Districts 5 and 6 saw their incumbent legislators win comfortably over their challengers.

In District 7, the race for the two Assembly seats had also been competitive. Incumbent Democratic Assemblymen Herb Conaway and Troy Singleton faced Mount Laurel Mayor Jim Keenan and businessman Chris Halgas. Assemblyman Troy Singleton, an aide to former Assembly Speaker Joe Roberts and current official with the Carpenters union, was appointed to the seat vacated by Assemblyman Jack Connors who resigned this past August. Assemblymen Conaway and Singleton were both victorious.

The Chamber looks forward to working with the newly elected or reelected officials in 2012. Please see below for the full list of South Jersey Election results.

South Jersey Senate Race Results: (winners in bold; incumbents marked with *) **State Senate - District 1 - General**

Jeff Van Drew*
Dem
David DeWeese
GOP

State Senate - District 2 - General

Jim Whelan*

Dem
Vincent Polistina
GOP

State Senate - District 3 - General

Stephen Sweeney*
Dem
Michael Mulligan
GOP

State Senate - District 4 - General

Fred Madden*
Dem
Giancarlo D'Orazio
GOP

State Senate - District 5 - General

Donald Norcross*
Dem
Keith Walker
GOP

State Senate - District 6 – General

Jim Beach*
Dem
Phil Mitsch
GOP

State Senate - District 7 - General

Gail Cook
Dem
Diane Allen*
GOP

State Senate - District 8 - General

Dawn Marie Addiego*
GOP

**South Jersey Assembly Race Results:
State Assembly - District 1 - General**

Nelson Albano*
Dem
Matthew Milam*
Dem
Samuel Fiocchi
GOP
Suzanne Walters
GOP

State Assembly - District 2 - General

John Amodeo*
GOP
Chris Brown
GOP
Alisa Cooper
Dem
Damon Tyner
Dem

State Assembly - District 3 - General

John Burzichelli*
Dem
Celeste Riley*
Dem
Robert Villare
GOP
Domenick DiCicco
GOP

State Assembly - District 4 - General

Paul Moriarty*
Dem
Gabriela Mosquera
Dem
Shelley Lovett
GOP
Patricia Fratticcioli
GOP
Tony Celeste
GOP

State Assembly - District 5 - General

Gilbert "Whip" Wilson*
Dem
Angel Fuentes*
Dem
William Levins
GOP
Terrell Ratliff
GOP

State Assembly - District 6 - General

Louis Greenwald*
Dem
Pamela Lampitt*
Dem
Allan Richardson
GOP
Gregory Horton
GOP

State Assembly - District 7 - General

Herb Conaway*
Dem
Troy Singleton*
Dem
Christopher Halgas
GOP
Jim Keenan
GOP

State Assembly - District 8 - General

Scott Rudder*
GOP
Christopher Brown
GOP
Anita Lovely
Dem
Pamela Finnerty
Dem
Robert Forchion, Jr.
Ind