

## **2014 Election Update**

*Prepared by The Kowalski Group, LLC*

November 5, 2014

**Connecticut's Democratic party powered their way to victories throughout the state last night, although they faced a very strong challenge from Republicans while doing so. The GOP, in fact, did make several important inroads as we'll discuss.**

### Governor's Race

**Governor Dannel Malloy and Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman were re-elected.** Like 2010, their margin of victory came in the cities. With 90 percent of precincts reporting, Malloy led his opponent, Republican Tom Foley, 51—48 percent. Foley and his Lt. Gov. running mate, former Groton Mayor Heather Somers, made a very credible run but he has now lost twice statewide.

### Constitutional Offices

**Republican Tim Herbst appears deadlocked with Democratic Treasurer Denise Nappier** in what has been a very heated race. The other constitutional officers, Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Comptroller Kevin Lembo and Attorney General George Jepsen, were re-elected. If Herbst wins, he immediately becomes the leading Republican official in Connecticut.

### No U.S. Senate Race

There was no race for the U.S. Senate this year. In 2016, Senator Blumenthal will be up for re-election.

### U.S. House

**All five incumbent Democratic members of the U.S. House were re-elected.** These include Reps. John Larson, Joe Courtney, Rosa DeLauro, Jim Himes and Elizabeth Esty. The race thought to be the most contested was in Esty's district but she defeated her opponent, Republican businessman Mark Greenberg, by seven percentage points. Of note is the fact that Rep. DeLauro is completing 24 years in the House. Her next term will set the longevity record in Connecticut

for a Member of Congress. The previous record of 24 years was held by former U.S. Rep. Nancy Johnson.

Connecticut General Assembly

**The Democratic party retained control of both the Connecticut House and Senate**, although at slightly reduced numbers.

Senate

As of this writing, it looks like the Republicans did net one additional seat. The breakdown of the chamber would be 21 Democratic members to 15 Republican members. Here are the highlights:

District	Outcome
3	3 <sup>rd</sup> District—State Rep. Tim Larson won this open sea in the Manchester area and will move to the Senate. He is the brother of U.S. Rep. John Larson.
12	Democrat Ted Kennedy, Jr., won an easy victory in this shoreline district.
13	Sen. Dante Bartolomeo appears to have held off a furious challenge from Republican Len Suzio in this Meriden-based district. A recount will probably be held.
18	Incumbent Senator Andy Maynard was re-elected despite not being able to campaign or even submit an absentee ballot by election day. If Maynard is not able to take office in January, a vacancy will be declared and a special election held in late February or early March to fill the seat.
20	Republican Paul Formica defeated State Rep. Betsy Ritter in this New London-anchored district. Formica’s win flips the seat from Democratic to Republican control.
28	Republican State Rep. Tony Hwang has won this Fairfield-centered district and succeeds John McKinney in the seat.
29	Democratic State Rep. Mae Flexer appears to have won a narrow victory over Republican John French in this Northeast Connecticut district. Flexer will succeed Sen. President Don Williams.
31	In the Bristol-based open seat, Republican Henri Martin defeated Democratic nominee Rob Michalik. This keeps the district in Republican hands.

House

At this writing, it appears that Republicans gained a net nine seats in the chamber. If this holds, the party breakdown will be 88 Democratic members to 63 Republicans. Republican challengers ousted nine incumbent Democratic members. These races include:

District	Democratic Incumbent (losing)	Republican challenger (winning)
13	Joe Diminico	Mark Tweedie
35	Tom Vicino	Jesse MacLachlan
40	Ted Moukawsher	John Scott
42	Tim Bowles	Mike France
47	Brian Sear	Doug Dubitsky
77	Christopher Wright	Christina Pavalock
117	Paul Davis	Charles Ferraro
119	James Maroney	Pam Staneski

They also “flipped” two seats that were vacated by a Democratic incumbent; the 27<sup>th</sup> district in Newington (won by Gary Byron) and the 38<sup>th</sup> district in Waterford (won by Kathleen McCarty).

#### Post-November 4

Shortly after the November 4 election, caucuses in the Connecticut House and Senate will meet to choose their leadership for 2015-16. There will be some changes. The Senate will have a new President and Majority Leader as well as a new Minority Leader. We expect to see New Haven Senator Martin Looney become the new President Pro Tempore, Norwalk Senator Bob Duff to become Majority Leader and Republican Senator Len Fasano, the new Minority Leader. He replaces Sen. John McKinney, who ran for Governor and lost in the Republican primary to Tom Foley. The House Democratic leadership is likely to stay the same with Speaker Brendan Sharkey and Majority Leader Joe Aresimowicz. The Republicans will have a new Minority Leader with the retirement of Rep. Larry Cafero. We expect to see current Deputy Minority Leader Themis Klarides succeed Cafero. She is serving her eighth term and is from the Naugatuck Valley.

The 2015 session will convene on Wednesday, January 7, 2015. Governor Malloy will be sworn-in for his second term at 12 p.m.

#### Conclusion

Nationally there was a “wave” election for the Republicans. They took over control of the U.S. Senate and added numbers in the U.S. House that have not been seen since the Truman years. In Connecticut, the playing field tilted Democratic although the Republicans did make some gains in the General Assembly while possibly winning a statewide constitutional office (Treasurer) for the first time since 1994.

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