



2022 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

AS PRESENTED BY FOCUS GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

ELECTION DAY RECAP

Unsurprisingly, the anticipated “Red Wave” did not hit the vast Blue state of Connecticut. Democrats retained large majorities Tuesday in the Connecticut General Assembly, blunting a Republican campaign centered on high inflation and cost of living. Democrats responded by stating that they had passed one of the largest tax cuts in state history and created four years of fiscal stability under Lamont. Going into Election Day, Democrats held a 97-54 majority in the House and a 23-13 majority in the Senate. It looks like those numbers will remain largely the same, pending a handful of recounts across the state. Additionally, Democratic control in statewide and national offices remained largely unchanged. The one federal race we are still watching is CT-05, where Rep. Jahana Hayes (D) is trying to keep her seat against George Logan (R) in a race that’s still too close to call.

STATEWIDE RACES

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont scored a decisive victory over Republican Bob Stefanowski in their rematch, with the Governor defeating his challenger by double digits. Democrats also swept the races for Connecticut’s four constitutional offices—Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney General—reinforcing the party’s grip on the state. With Democrats outnumbering Republicans 2-1 in Connecticut, it has now been over two decades since a Republican has held one of these offices. With 58% of the vote, Democrat Stephanie Thomas, a freshman legislator from Norwalk, defeated her Republican opponent Dominic Rapini for Secretary of the State. Erick Russell, a Democrat, defeated former State Representative Harry Arora (R) to succeed retiring Treasurer Shawn Wooden. Garnering 52% of votes, Russell became the first Black LGBTQ candidate elected to statewide office. And with 55% of the vote, Democratic nominee for State Comptroller Sean Scanlon, defeated West Hartford Republican Mary Fay. William Tong also won his election for a second term as Attorney General.

Soon after polls closed Tuesday it was clear that Senator Richard Blumenthal had secured a third term in the U.S. Senate, easily prevailing over Leora Levy, a Republican National Committee member who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump. The Associated Press called the race in Blumenthal's favor in confidence just three minutes after polls closed at 8 p.m.

In the Congressional races, John Larson (CT-01), Joe Courtney (CT-02), Rosa DeLauro (CT-03) and Jim Himes (CT-04) won their respective districts with the 5th district matchup between incumbent Jahana Hayes (D) and George Logan (R) still too close to call as votes are still being counted.

DEMOCRATS RETAIN LARGE MAJORITIES IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Democrats now control all three House districts in Greenwich, one of the state's wealthiest communities, after capturing two GOP-held seats. Democratic challenger Rachel Khanna defeated Republican incumbent Kimberly Fiorello (R) in the 149th and Hector Arzeno (D) outpolled Republican Peter Sherr in the 151st District seat currently held by Harry Arora, who gave that up to campaign for state treasurer.

Democrats also captured a new 42nd House District created by reapportionment in Wilton. That went to Democrat Keith Denning, who defeated Republican Kim Healy.

Democrats lost three seats they currently hold: Republican Chris Aniskovich unseated Rep. Christine Goupil in the 35th District seat that stretches across Clinton, Killingworth and most of Westbrook; Republican Mark DeCaprio won the open 48th District in Colchester; and Republican Rachel Chaleski unseated Democrat Kenneth Gucker in the 138th District in Danbury. The Danbury race appears to be headed for a recount, as is Democratic newcomer Christopher Poulos' apparent win over Republican Tony Morrison for an open seat in the 81st District in Southington. The margin of victory in both races appeared to be within the 0.5% standard set by state law for a mandatory recount. In the Senate, New London Democrat Martha Marx outpolled Old Saybrook Republican Jerry Labriola Jr. to win the 20th District seat being vacated by retiring GOP Sen. Paul Formica of East Lyme.

Caucus leaders also were tracking close races in three other districts that Republicans currently hold:

- *The 8th Senate District race between Harwinton Democrat Paul Honig and Avon Republican Lisa Seminara;*
- *The 35th Senate District race between Coventry Democrat Lisa Thomas and Woodstock Republican Jeff Gordon;*
- *And the 36th Senate District contest in Greenwich between incumbent Republican Ryan Fazio and Democrat Trevor Crow.*

It appears that Seminara, Gordon, and Fazio are ahead at this moment but all three races may be headed for a recount.

COMMITTEE CHAIR / RANKING MEMBER TIMELINE

With many new faces in the Connecticut General Assembly, some committee chairs, assignments, and leadership positions are sure to shift. Legislative leadership is expected to decide on these sometime in the near future. In some years, the committee chairs and ranking members are decided by the end of November, though recently some caucuses have waited until early January to announce their decisions. We will update you as information on committee chairs is announced. As a reminder, session begins on Wednesday, January 4.