

PACELECTION SUMMARY

2004



 **NASW** · PACE

National Association of Social Workers
Political Action for Candidate Election

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NATIONAL PACE - ELECTION 2004 SUMMARY

Overview of Election Activity: Contributions and Endorsements from NASW PACE

- ✓ Endorsed 129 U.S. House candidates (120 Democrats; nine Republicans).
- ✓ Authorized contributions to 106 House candidates and 22 Senate candidates.
- ✓ Provided direct contributions for fundraisers to 50 House candidates (30 Democrats, 20 Republicans) and seven Senate candidates (one Democrat, six Republicans).
- ✓ Contributed to Democratic and Republican Donor Councils. Donor councils are groups that, in exchange for a contribution, provide access to members of Congress or a political party through meetings, issue briefings, and other events.

ELECTION OVERVIEW

Presidential Race

NASW-PACE endorsed Senator John Kerry and his running mate, Senator John Edwards, in the race for U.S. President and Vice President. On November 2, President Bush won the Electoral College vote with 286 votes, and the popular vote, receiving more than 59 million popular votes. This wasn't a landslide victory for President Bush; John Kerry amassed 56 million popular votes. NASW-PACE did not make a financial contribution to the Kerry/Edwards campaign, since NASW does not get financially involved in presidential races. Instead, PACE encouraged NASW members to be politically informed about the race and issues important to social workers and to volunteer for the Kerry/Edwards campaign.

U.S. House Races

During the 2004 election cycle, PACE Trustees authorized contributions to 106 candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives. Of these candidates, 82 were incumbents and 24 were challenger candidates.

November 2 was a great day for PACE-endorsed House incumbents: 95 percent of endorsed House incumbents won their districts. PACE was also involved in 11 competitive, open seat races. Nearly three-fourths of these candidates were successful in winning their races.

U.S. HOUSE OPEN SEAT WINNERS

John Salazar (CO-03/D)

Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (FL-20/D)*

Russ Carnahan (MO-03/D)

Brian Higgins (NY-27/D)*

Allyson Schwartz (PA-13/D)*/**

Stephanie Herseth (SD-AL/D)*

Al Green (TX-09/D)

Gwen Moore (WI-04/D)

** NASW-PACE Field Organizer State*

***Social Worker*

U.S. SENATE INCUMBENTS-WINNERS

***Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)**

***Charles Schumer (D-NY)**

Barbara Boxer (D-CA)

Byron Dorgan (D-ND)

Christopher Dodd (D-CT)

Ron Wyden (D-OR)

Daniel Inouye (D-HI)

***Arlen Specter (R-PA)**

Evan Bayh (D-IN)

Patrick Leahy (D-VT)

***Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)**

***Patty Murray (D-WA)**

***Harry Reid (D-NV)**

Russell Feingold (D-WI)

** NASW-PACE Field Organizer State*

However, our 13 endorsed challenger candidates facing incumbents had a difficult race. Two impressive victories worth noting are John Barrow (GA-12/D) and Melissa Bean (IL-08/D), who unseated incumbents in highly competitive races.

While social worker **Ciro Rodriguez, MSW, (TX-28/D)** lost his primary race due to redistricting this cycle, and challenger **Jan Judy, BSW, (AR-03/D)** did not win her general election race, **Allyson Schwartz (D), MSW, from PA-13th**, won a tough race to earn a seat in the House of Representatives.

U.S. Senate Races

PACE Trustees also authorized contributions to 22 U.S. Senate candidates, of which seven were challenger candidates (six open seats) and 15 were incumbents. A total 93 percent of the endorsed senate incumbents won their races. A tough loss for Democrats was Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle's (D-SD) seat to John Thune by a very tight 49 percent to 51 percent margin.

Our endorsed Senate challenger candidates faced highly competitive races and only two out of seven delivered victories in their states: Barack Obama (D) in Illinois and Ken Salazar (D) in Colorado. The overall outcomes of our Senate challengers' winnings were not successful per se, but we feel we were successful in the candidates we chose. In January, Obama will be the only African American in the world's most powerful legislative body, and Salazar is going to a Senate that has had only three Hispanics in its history, the last nearly 30 years ago.

We are also proud of the candidates we chose who did not win on November 2. They all met the PACE endorsement criteria. While Betty Castor (D-FL) and Inez Tenenbaum (D-SC) were excellent candidates who supported our issues and ran impressive campaigns, they did not deliver more than 50 percent of the vote on Election Day. Incumbent Senators **Patty Murray (D-WA)**, **Blanche Lincoln (D-AR)**, **Barbara Boxer (D-CA)**, and social worker **Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)**, will be back to the U.S. Senate in 2005.

Social Workers Re-Elected to Office 2004
Rep. Susan Davis (CA-53/D)
Rep. Barbara Lee (CA-9/D)
Rep. Ed Towns (NY-10/D)
**Allyson Y. Schwartz (PA-13/D)
Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
<i>** First Term</i>

Groups That Made The Difference for Bush	2000		2004	
	Gore	Bush	Kerry	Bush
Married women	48%	49%	45%	54%
Single women	63%	32%	62%	37%
Seniors (60+)	51%	47%	46%	54%

Please visit www.socialworkers.org/pace/chapterendorse/default.asp to see a full list of federal candidates that National PACE endorsed during the 2004 election cycle.

Political Analysis

Race for the Presidency

President Bush won both the Electoral College vote and a 3.5 million popular vote victory on Election Day. The states that voted for Bush in 2000 voted for him again in 2004, except for New Hampshire; and Kerry held onto the Gore states in 2004, except for Iowa and New Mexico.

2000	2004
Popular Vote 48% Bush 48% Gore	Popular Vote 51% Bush 48% Kerry
Electoral Votes 271 Bush 266 Gore	Electoral Votes 286 Bush 252 Kerry

Every group of the electorate turned out in greater numbers to vote on Election Day. While some solidly supported Kerry, Bush made gains with many of these groups, specifically, women, seniors, and Hispanics.

The most impressive result of the 2004 election was voter turnout. Both parties were extremely successful in registering new voters and getting them to the polls. According to exit poll data, unmarried women voters increased from 19 to 23 percent from 2000 to 2004 and voted overwhelmingly Democratic (62 percent to 37 percent). Youth voters continued to be 17 percent of the electorate and were the only age group to solidly support Kerry (54 percent to 45 percent). Increase in youth voter turn-out is notable since this group has experienced declining turn-out in the past few elections. Hispanic voters increased their share of the electorate by only 1 percent since 2000, but a growing number voted Republican in 2004.

The Senate

Republicans tightened their grip on a Senate majority and will hold 55 of the 100 seats in the Senate next year. Prior to Election Day, the break down was 48D, 51R, 1I. They picked up all five open southern seats, replacing Democrats who retired. Never before has the Republican Party held so many seats – 18 of 22 – in the 11 states of the Democratic south. In 1960, when John Kennedy was elected President, all 22 seats were held by Democrats. In 2004, for the first time ever, a Republican, David Vitter, was voted into office in Louisiana.

Nine new senators will take office in January: seven Republicans and two Democrats. The Senate will be diverse, consisting of the first Hispanic American in nearly 30 years (Salazar, D-CO); the first Cuban-born senator (Martinez, R-FL); the third African American elected to the Senate in 125 years (Obama, D-IL); and the first Alaskan-born senator (Murkowski, R-AK).

The House

2004 marks the first time that a House Republican majority has increased its numbers in two consecutive cycles. Republicans now hold a 232 seat majority or 53 percent of the House's 435 seats (the break down in the 108th Congress was 205D, 227R, 1I).

The power of incumbency and redistricting was most apparent this cycle. The biggest shakedown in the House was a result of Tom Delay's 2003 Texas redistricting plan. Consequently, five incumbent Texas Democrats are not returning to Congress in January. Outside of Texas redistricting—which put Democrats at a real disadvantage—the House results were overall static: only six other seats changed hands nationwide. Democratic challengers unseated incumbents in Georgia and Illinois and defeated open seat challengers in Colorado and New York. Republican challengers defeated an incumbent in Indiana and open seat challenger in Kentucky.

The States

Ideology seemed to have played a big role in the presidential race, the Republican gains in Congress, and in the 11-state sweep of ballot initiatives outlawing gay marriage. But it was not a major factor at the state level. The 11 races for governor left Republicans and Democrats in the same position they were before Election Day, with Republican governors having a 28 to 22 advantage in state houses. Similarly, very little changed in state legislatures. Republicans will have full control of 20 states to the Democrats' 19 states compared with a 21 to 17 advantage for the Republicans before the election.

Ballot Issues

Voters in 34 states considered more than 160 ballot measures on Election Day. According to the University of Southern California's Initiative and Referendum Institute, voters approved 68 percent of the state ballot questions, which was slightly higher than the ratio in 2002. Similar to the national races, spending on ballot measures may have reached record levels.

- ✓**Gay Marriage:** Constitutional amendments defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman passed with more than 60 percent approval in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, and Utah, and with just under 60 percent of the vote in Michigan and Oregon.
- ✓**Abortion:** Florida voters approved a measure requiring parental notifications for abortions.
- ✓**Immigration:** Arizona voters approved a measure restricting illegal immigrants' access to state benefits.
- ✓**Minimum Wage:** A majority of voters in Florida and Nevada approved measures to raise their states' minimum wage levels from \$5.15 an hour to \$6.15 an hour. These votes, however, did not help John Kerry in these states.
- ✓**Stem Cell Research:** Voters in California approved a plan to invest \$3 billion of state money in embryonic stem-cell research.
- ✓**Other measures:** Colorado, Montana, and Oklahoma approved tobacco-tax increases while Arkansas and Washington rejected tax increases for education spending. Maine and South Dakota voted down tax cuts and Washington blocked charter schools.

An Eye Toward 2006 Cycle

As a result of the elections, Republicans continue to control the White House, and in greater numbers, the Senate and the House. NASW will continue to push through and appropriately adjust its legislative and political action strategy and work with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

While we have endorsed and contributed to a number of Republican candidates, doing so has been a challenge for NASW-PACE, which is an obstacle we need to overcome as we begin to endorse candidates for 2006. In the 109th Congress, the Senate will have a 55 to 44 Republican advantage and the House will have a 232 to 202 Republican advantage. It is imperative for PACE to endorse and contribute to greater numbers of Republicans and work with them

in the 109th Congress for NASW to advance its legislative agenda. However, we face a number of operational difficulties in our endorsement process that prevents PACE from doing so. For example, an incumbent's voting record doesn't always meet PACE's criteria, or a chapter can be resistant to supporting the national office's endorsement of a Republican candidate. Thus far, the transition to supporting more Republicans has not been easy. Yet, we certainly have made an effort to do so:

- ✓Government Relations staff attended 19 Republican Donor Council events compared to eight Democratic Donor Council events.
- ✓Government Relations staff attended fundraisers for 27 Republican candidates (six Senate candidates), and 31 Democratic candidates (one Senate candidate).
- ✓PACE endorsed nine Republican House candidates; contributed to one Republican Senate candidate, and placed a field organizer in this state (PA).

But the results of the November 2 elections point to the fact that we must do more with Republican candidates in the 109th Congress.

Field Organizers

For the fifth election cycle, PACE placed field organizers in eight states: Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Washington. In addition, PACE sponsored special projects in South Dakota and South Carolina that were similar to the field organizer project. These special projects were funded by a generous donation from the DC Metro PACE.

The organizers were hired in June, trained in the NASW National Office in July, and worked in their respective states through the November elections.

Organizers primarily worked on federal races, endorsed by national PACE. Goals of the organizer project included not only mobilizing members to vote for candidates who supported NASW's policy agenda, but also encouraging members to volunteer for campaigns, increasing the recognition of NASW and PACE among members and students, and involving NASW members in political advocacy.

Some activities the organizers were involved in included holding voter registration drives, operating phone banks to mobilize the social work vote, and visiting social work schools to speak to policy classes about the importance of voting and the election.

Highlights from the Field Organizing Project

- ✓Seven of the 10 Senate candidates in the states with a field organizer won their elections.
- ✓Organizers recruited more than 1,000 members and students to call other NASW members, volunteer on campaigns, and perform other activities.
- ✓Volunteers contacted more than 19,900 members through NASW organized phonebanks.
- ✓Organizers gave 108 presentations at 61 social work schools, reaching 4,700 students.

Voter Identification of NASW Membership

For the first time in history, PACE had access to voter registration information on NASW members. PACE staff compared NASW's membership list with a database of national voter registration files, which are public records. The match rate for NASW's membership list was approximately 65 percent. This means that in early August, PACE had voter registration information on two-thirds of NASW's national membership. PACE transmitted individual data files to chapters along with information about how to interpret the files and how to encourage unregistered members to become registered.

These files were tremendously useful in states where PACE placed field organizers. They contacted members in states for which NASW did not have voter registration information and encouraged unregistered members to register. For members who were registered to vote, organizers found out how they were registered and included this information in the chapter's database. In addition, this information was useful for organizers' phone banking and Get Out The Vote efforts.



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