

Christian Coalition of Washington

November 2006

Democrat win or Republican meltdown?

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The Democrats certainly have their work cut out for them. They have only two years to release as many terrorists as possible and lock up as many Republicans as they can. --Ann Coulter

Dear Friends:

The Supreme Court heard a challenge to the federal ban on partial-birth abortion, strongman Daniel Ortega won back the presidency in Nicaragua, Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death, the Episcopal Church appointed its first female head, and the president of the National Association of Evangelicals stepped down in disgrace. Also, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stepped down after the Democrats won control of Congress. Other than that, it was just an ordinary week.

On November 7, voters brought to a decisive end, twelve years of Republican Party control of the U. S. House and Senate. Exceeding even their wildest expectations, Democrats picked up 29 House and 6 Senate seats—sufficient to check the Bush administration in virtually all federal matters.

Although success for Democrats included impressive down-ballot wins in a majority of state and legislative races across the nation, exit polls suggest that Republicans lost the 2006 midterm election more than Democrats won it—something both parties should consider.

Dr. Janice Crouse with *Concerned Women for America* concludes that pessimistic voters dominated this election. She says, "More than half of voters (56 percent) said that the country is on the wrong track, nearly six in ten voters said that they disapprove of the way President Bush is handling his job...and 61 percent of voters disapprove of the Republican-controlled Congress."¹

According to Gary Bauer with *American Values*, only 27 percent of those asked cited the quality of Democrat candidates as a reason Democrats won the election. Says Bauer, "...the American people were not voting 'for' the Democrats as much as they were expressing their disapproval of the Republican performance of late."²

Conservative fund-raising giant Richard Viguerie released a blistering statement saying that conservatives and value voters had long since felt betrayed by President Bush and the Republican Congress, which greatly reduced their enthusiasm for supporting those who had abandoned them. He added, "Voters couldn't fire Bush, so they did the next best thing—they fired his party, in the House, in the Senate, in the statehouses around the Nation."³

Thought to be the granddaddy of all issues this season and the chief source of public dissatisfaction with President Bush and Republicans is the war in Iraq. But a poll taken by OnMessage Inc. during the three days preceding the election in 12 hotly contested Republican-controlled House districts showed that Republicans actually held a modest edge (36% to 32%) as the party "best able to deal with the war in Iraq."

Democrats were the clear choice by the same respondents when asked which party is best able to “cut taxes for the middle-class” (42% to 29%), “work toward reducing the deficit” (47% to 22%), and “keep government spending under control” (38% to 21%).⁴

Exit polls indicate that self-described “conservatives” provided the winning margin in at least three U. S. Senate races and perhaps many more House contests. Liberal Senator-elect Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) for instance, won an astounding 23% of the conservative vote in his successful race and up to 20% of Pennsylvania’s conservative voters decided to retire Rick Santorum.

Although it would appear that voters were inclined to be “anti-Republican” this election, it could be argued that they were decidedly conservative on many ballot issues. Voters in seven states amended their state constitutions to define marriage as between one man and one woman. In Arizona, the only state where voters declined (narrowly) to do likewise, voters rejected (by a wide margin) state mandated vote-by-mail and declared ENGLISH as their official state language. A Zogby poll last year found that 84 percent of Americans would vote the same way.

Voters in at least 12 states considered measures shoring up the rights of private property owners. Nine were approved. In Michigan and Ohio, two more big states for Democrats this year, voters said no to race-based preferential treatment and gambling as a source of education revenues.

But not all social issues fared well. A comprehensive measure banning virtually all abortions in South Dakota was defeated as were parental notification offerings in Oregon and California. In Missouri, voters approved (50-49 percent) a stem cell research initiative (including embryonic stem cells)—perhaps not understanding they have technically removed legal restrictions against human cloning.

In Washington State, voters were very “blue” in their appraisals of candidates and issues. They promoted the Democrat majority in the legislature to a “super majority,” reelected a radical feminist to the Supreme Court by a wide margin, and sided with liberals on three-of-four state ballot measures. Voters killed a property rights measure as well as a proposed repeal of the death tax, while approving a fairly controversial energy resource measure.

So what happened to the Republican Party?

Many think that Republicans lost their way. In a post-election letter to his colleagues in the U. S. House, former majority leader John Boehner said that voters stopped thinking of [Republicans] as the party of principle. “They concluded,” wrote Boehner, “that instead of changing Washington, Washington had changed us.”

Before casting stones, perhaps we, the Church, should be considering the same. Are we changing the culture, or is the culture changing us? Are we preaching SIN any longer, or are we expecting conservative Republicans to do that for us in the halls of government?

These are fair questions that require honest answers.

Sincerely,



Rick Forcier
Executive Director

¹ Slight, but Significant Voter Changes, Janice Shaw Crouse, *Concerned Women for America*, 11/10/2006

² “End of the Day,” Gary Bauer, *American Values*, 11/10/2006

³ Angry Viguerie: Fire GOP Leadership, *NewMax.com*, 11/8/2006

⁴ Disgruntled Conservatives Have Reason to Hope, Mike Franc, *Human Events Online*, www.humanevents.com