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THE 2006 ELECTIONS: STATE BY STATE; South

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Control of the Senate depends on one narrow race that has kept the political spotlight and the nation's attention on the region.

Alabama

As much of the nation turned toward the Democrats, Alabama continued a long-term trend of Southern states becoming more solidly Republican.

Gov. Bob Riley was unpopular through much of his term, and Democrats had hopes of unseating him. But he won a second term and made it look easy, soundly beating Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley in a race that had seemed competitive six months ago.

Jim Folsom, a Democratic former governor and lieutenant governor, and the son of a governor, made a comeback by winning a tight race for lieutenant governor. But over all, Republicans made gains in races for state offices.

When he began his term, Mr. Riley alienated Democrats by quashing plans for casino gambling. Then he angered conservatives by proposing a tax increase, a measure voters overwhelmingly rejected.

But since then, he has won praise for his management, in contrast to his Democratic predecessor, Don Siegelman, who faces corruption charges.

GOVERNOR

99.3% reporting

Riley: 717,287 58%

Baxley: 518,750 42%

Arkansas

In the race for governor, State Attorney General Mike Beebe, a Democrat, defeated former Representative Asa Hutchinson, a Republican and a former under secretary in the Homeland Security Department. Gov. Mike Huckabee, a Republican, was barred by term limits from running after a 10-year tenure.

This was Mr. Beebe's first time facing an opponent after nearly a quarter-century in politics. He served 20 years in the State Senate and ran unopposed for attorney general. Mr. Beebe led a Democratic sweep of seven statewide offices, including lieutenant governor and auditor. In his victory speech, he paid tribute to Winthrop Paul Rockefeller, the Republican former lieutenant governor who died in July from a rare blood ailment.

In House races, none of the four incumbents, three Democrats and a Republican, faced a close challenge. Voters also approved a measure to allow bingo and raffles by charitable groups. Arkansas was one of only four states where that type of gambling was illegal.

GOVERNOR

98% reporting

Beebe: 414,382 55.5%

Hutchinson: 304,408 40.7%

Florida

Floridians had two Bush brothers to bear in mind, one who was still popular and one who was not. In the Senate race, which pitted Bill Nelson, the Democratic incumbent, against Katherine Harris, the former secretary of state who presided over the 2000 presidential recount, voters seemed to be thinking of President Bush. In exit polls, some 54 percent of voters said they disapproved of Mr. Bush's job performance, and many appeared to have seen voting for Mr. Nelson as a way to send a message to Washington. Mr. Nelson defeated Ms. Harris with more than 60 percent of the vote.

In the race for governor, in which Charlie Crist, the Republican attorney general, easily defeated Representative Jim Davis, the Democrat, voters seemed to have had Gov. Jeb Bush in mind. Mr. Crist has been a close associate of the governor, and in exit polls, 66 percent of voters said they approved of how Jeb Bush, who is facing term limits, had handled his governorship.

Mr. Crist went out of his way to cast himself as a centrist Republican and to emphasize his independence from President Bush, declining to appear at a campaign rally in Pensacola on Monday with the president. Instead, Mr. Crist campaigned in Jacksonville, Tampa and other cities where he hoped to appeal to independent voters.

"Crist knew he was attracting independent and even many Democratic voters, and if he had campaigned with President Bush, he might have lost them," said Susan McManus, a political scientist at the University of South Florida in Tampa. Thirteen percent of voters who cast ballots for Mr. Crist identified themselves as Democrats.

In two Florida Congressional races, Democrats capitalized on voter discontent with the war and with the House page scandal that forced the resignation of Representative Mark Foley. In the race to succeed Mr. Foley, whose name remained on the ballot, the Democratic candidate, Timothy Mahoney, a businessman and political neophyte, defeated State Representative Joe Negron, a Republican, who adopted as the slogan for his write-in campaign, "Punch Foley for Negron." In the district that includes Fort Lauderdale, State Senator Ron Klein, a Democrat, defeated Representative E. Clay Shaw, the Republican incumbent.

The race to replace Ms. Harris in Florida's 13th Congressional District, which includes Sarasota, was as close as it could get, with fewer than 400 votes, out of almost 240,000 cast, separating Vern Buchanan, a Republican, from the Democrat, Christine Jennings. The Associated Press called the race for Mr. Buchanan, but Florida news reports said a recount was possible.

SENATE

100% reporting

Nelson: 2,845,111 60.3%

Harris: 1,797,709 38.1%

GOVERNOR

99.9% reporting

Crist: 2,480,636 52.2%

Davis: 2,144,359 45.1%

Georgia

Gov. Sonny Perdue easily won re-election over his Democratic challenger, Lt. Gov. Mark Taylor, gaining 58 percent of the vote.

President Bush campaigned repeatedly in Georgia, but it remained unclear whether his efforts affected the outcome of races there. In one House district where Mr. Bush appeared in the campaign's final week, a swath of central Georgia that includes Macon, Jim Marshall, the incumbent Democrat, won a narrow victory, garnering 50.5 percent of the vote, to the 49.5 percent of his Republican challenger, Michael Collins.

In the district in southeastern Georgia that includes Augusta -- another where the president appeared shortly before the election -- Representative John Barrow, a Democrat, was locked in a tight finish with Max Burns, a Republican who is a former congressman. Fewer than a thousand votes separated the two,

and no victor had been declared yesterday.

GOVERNOR

96.8% reporting

Perdue: 1,177,499 57.9%

Taylor: 779,161 38.3%

8TH DIST.

99.3% reporting

Marshall: 80,513 50.5%

Collins: 78,813 49.5%

12TH DIST.

98.6% reporting

Barrow: 71,494 50.3%

Burns: 70,610 49.7%

Kentucky

In Kentucky, which voted for Bill Clinton in 1996 and George Bush in 2000, Democrats gave Republicans a run for their money, increasing their share of the state's six Congressional seats to two from one. But they lost narrow races in two districts where they had harbored hopes.

John Yarmuth, a wealthy Democrat and political newcomer, defeated five-term Representative Anne M. Northup in the Third District, which includes Louisville. Ms. Northup, who sits on the House Appropriations Committee, got help from President Bush twice during her re-election campaign in 2002, but this year she sought to declare her independence from the White House, a strategy that did not bear fruit.

Mr. Yarmuth said yesterday that "the major difference in this campaign was that I offered voters a definite alternative to the policies of Anne Northup and George Bush."

In the Second Congressional District, State Representative Mike Weaver, the Democrat, failed to defeat the incumbent, Ron Lewis, a Republican, and in the Fourth District, Geoff Davis, also a Republican incumbent, held back the Democratic challenger, Ken Lucas, a former congressman. Representative Ben Chandler, the incumbent Democrat, easily won re-election in the Sixth District.

2ND DIST.

100% reporting

Lewis: 117,424 55.5%

Weaver: 94,191 44.5%

3RD DIST.

100% reporting

Yarmuth: 122,425 50.6%

Northup: 116,535 48.2%

4TH DIST.

99.8%

Davis: 103,719 51.5%

Lucas: 87,701 43.6%

Louisiana

Representative William J. Jefferson, an eight-term Democratic congressman from New Orleans, is still the subject of a federal bribery investigation and still faces a runoff election on Dec. 9. But he is now the clear front-runner for re-election after a wild 13-way race.

Mr. Jefferson will face Karen R. Carter, a state representative who was endorsed by the state Democratic Party. House Democrats kicked Mr. Jefferson off the Ways and Means Committee after his office was raided by the F.B.I. and he was accused of stashing \$90,000 from a technology company in his home freezer. The F.B.I. said Mr. Jefferson took the money to help the company get government contracts in Louisiana and Africa.

Mr. Jefferson drew 30 percent of the votes to Ms. Carter's 22 percent. If votes that went to the other 11 candidates were discarded, Mr. Jefferson would have defeated Ms. Carter 58 to 42 percent.

Ms. Carter has a reputation for seriousness and propriety, but Mr. Jefferson's strong showing was hardly a surprise in Louisiana, where ethical clouds often hover over successful politicians and extensive patronage networks like the one Mr. Jefferson built serve as sturdy bulwarks against the tide of change. He took credit for bringing billions in federal aid to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and was endorsed by, among others, the mayor of New Orleans, C. Ray Nagin.

Louisiana's other congressmen, five Republicans and a Democrat, were re-elected by comfortable margins.

Mississippi

Senator Trent Lott faced two trying events in the past four years that both derailed and redefined his political career. In 2002, Mr. Lott gave up his leadership of the Senate under a storm of criticism after he praised Strom Thurmond, who ran for president as a segregationist in 1948.

Then, Hurricane Katrina destroyed his home and much of the Mississippi Gulf Coast last year, and Mr. Lott, who had been considering retirement, decided there was still much for him to do in Washington.

On Tuesday, Mr. Lott won re-election to a fourth term, riding a wave of voter appreciation over the huge federal aid package he helped secure for his home state. He edged his closest opponent, State Representative Erik Fleming, a Democrat, by 170,000 votes. The Libertarian candidate, Harold Taylor, captured just 9,000 of the nearly 590,000 votes cast in the race.

In his victory speech, Mr. Lott, who has represented Mississippi in Washington since 1973, said, "I'm a warrior for this state." He told reporters that once it was determined if Republicans had retained control of the Senate, he would decide whether to run for its leadership post.

Nevertheless, he said that the Republican Party's loss of its dominance in Congress was a sign of voter disappointment in the party.

The state's four House members, two Republicans and two Democrats, were also re-elected. Among them, Representative Bennie Thompson, a Democrat, stands to gain the most: He is in line for the chairmanship of the Homeland Security Committee.

SENATE

99.8% reporting

Lott: 375, 307 63.6%

Fleming: 205, 518 34.8%

NORTH CAROLINA

Officials here called this a "blue moon" election. With no races for president, governor or United States senator, it was considered the weakest ballot in a 12-year cycle. That, and the rain that fell across the state on Election Day, could explain the low turnout.

Less than a third of the eligible voters cast ballots on Tuesday, said Gary Bartlett, the state's election director.

Two races did have some draw. In western North Carolina, voters elected the political newcomer Heath Shuler, a former National Football League quarterback, over the longtime Republican incumbent, Representative Charles H. Taylor.

The election of Mr. Shuler, a conservative Democrat, helped tip the balance of power in Congress.

Mr. Shuler's victory was not unexpected, since he had led Mr. Taylor in the polls for months. But analysts were surprised that Mr. Shuler won by a solid eight percentage points and that Mr. Taylor

quickly conceded Tuesday.

In Durham County, Michael B. Nifong, the Democratic district attorney and the prosecutor in the Duke University lacrosse rape case, defeated two challengers, although he garnered less than 50 percent of the vote.

Oklahoma

With the governor's race secure, and no Senate race or House seats vulnerable in Oklahoma, a pair of quirky ballot initiatives received a disproportionate amount of attention this election season. Voters closed a loophole in the state Constitution allowing legislators to be paid even if they are jailed and narrowly lifted a ban on Election Day alcohol sales that had been on the books since statehood.

The question of legislators being paid while behind bars went on the ballot after former State Representative Mike O'Neal, a Republican, was jailed for 30 days in 2005 for groping a woman in a motel lounge. While in jail, he continued to receive his \$38,000 annual salary.

Liquor retailers led the push to lift the ban on alcohol sales. Its passage came as a surprise in a state that did not end prohibition until 1959.

Gov. Brad Henry, a Democrat, easily won a second term, defeating Representative Ernest Istook, who served seven terms in Congress. Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin, a Republican, won Mr. Istook's seat. Ms. Fallin becomes the state's second woman to serve in Congress and the first since 1923.

GOVERNOR

100% reporting

Henry: 616,037 66.5%

Istook: 310,273 33.5%

South Carolina

There were few surprises in the vote in South Carolina. The Republican governor was re-elected, and two Democratic congressmen held their seats.

Gov. Mark Sanford defeated Tommy Moore, the Democratic state senator who had been endorsed by several prominent Republicans in the state, by 55 percent to 45 percent.

Voters re-elected Representatives John Spratt and James E. Clyburn, who stand to take prominent positions in the House under Democratic control.

Voters also overwhelmingly approved a constitutional amendment that prohibits same-sex marriage and prevents the state from recognizing marriage or civil unions between same-sex couples from other states.

The state was one of eight considering such a measure.

A handful of precincts stayed open longer than scheduled after problems with electronic voting machines resulted in long lines. Mr. Sanford, who was initially turned away from a polling place because he did not have a voter registration card, was able to vote after obtaining a replacement.

GOVERNOR

100% reporting

Sanford: 594,073 55.2%

Moore: 483,113 44.8%

Tennessee

Tennessee, which has not had a Democratic senator since 1994, stayed on a solidly Republican course, with Bob Corker, a former mayor of Chattanooga, narrowly defeating Harold E. Ford Jr., a five-term Democratic representative from a Memphis political dynasty. Theirs was a bitterly fought race to succeed Bill Frist, the Senate majority leader, who is retiring after two terms and weighing a presidential run.

Mr. Ford, who was trying to become the first black senator from the South since Reconstruction, ran as a cultural and social conservative. He emphasized his Christian faith, his support for limits on abortion and his opposition to same-sex marriage and gun restrictions.

"He wouldn't have come anywhere close to where he did if he hadn't been playing those kinds of themes," said John G. Geer, a political scientist at Vanderbilt University.

Marcus D. Pohlmann, a political scientist at Rhodes College in Memphis, said of the race, "It was an uphill battle from the beginning," adding, "Tennessee is still in the end a rural state and a red state."

Mr. Ford drew many votes around Memphis and Nashville, but it was not enough to overcome support for Mr. Corker in rural areas. White evangelical Christians made up about half of the electorate, and nearly two-thirds of them backed Mr. Corker.

Thomas F. Schaller, of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, said voters might have viewed Mr. Ford's conservative stance as inauthentic or simply been unprepared to elect a black or a Democratic senator. "Take your pick," said Dr. Schaller, who in a book published last month urged Democrats to write off the South as largely unwinnable in national elections.

Gov. Phil Bredesen, a Democrat, easily won a second term. In House races, David Davis was elected to succeed Representative Bill Jenkins, a fellow Republican, who is retiring. State Senator Steve Cohen, a Democrat, won the race to succeed Mr. Ford. A constitutional ban on same-sex marriage passed overwhelmingly.

Dr. Geer, among others, predicted that Mr. Ford would seek statewide office again, either when Senator Lamar Alexander's seat comes up in 2008 or when Governor Bredesen leaves office. "He ran a top-flight campaign," he said, "and put himself in good standing for future runs."

SENATE

99.9% reporting

Corker: 927,343 50.7%

Ford: 877,716 48%

GOVERNOR

99.9% reporting

Bredesen: 1,243,044 68.6%

Bryson: 539,121 29.7%

Texas

Tom DeLay, the former Republican majority leader who resigned earlier this year, may have left the national and Texas political stage, but his impact was felt deeply in two races here.

While most political contests in Texas broke for Republicans, Democrats gained the seat once held by Mr. DeLay and may have the opportunity to take another seat in a runoff election made possible by a redistricting plan engineered in 2003 by Mr. DeLay.

Nick Lampson, a Democrat and former congressman, won Mr. DeLay's former district in suburban Houston over the Republican write-in candidate, Shelley Sekula-Gibbs, a Houston councilwoman.

Ms. Sekula-Gibbs, however, won the special election that also was held Tuesday to fill the term that Mr. DeLay left incomplete; Mr. Lampson was not a candidate in the special election.

Meanwhile, Representative Henry Bonilla, a Republican, is headed for a runoff election, in large part because his district was recently redrawn after the Supreme Court ruled that an earlier redistricting by associates of Mr. DeLay unfairly diluted minority voting power. A runoff date has not been set. Mr. Bonilla will probably face *Ciro D. Rodriguez*, a former Democratic congressman.

Mr. Bonilla won 48 percent of the vote to Mr. Rodriguez's 20 percent. But the contest included six Democratic candidates and an independent, who collectively garnered 52 percent of the vote.

"Runoffs are so unpredictable," said Sherri Greenberg, a lecturer and fellow at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas. "It's about who can club the most people over the head and get them out to the polls."

In other statewide races, Gov. Rick Perry, a Republican, won re-election in a five-way race that included a Democrat and former congressman, Chris Bell; the state comptroller, Carole Keeton Strayhorn; a Libertarian candidate, James Werner; and the entertainer Kinky Friedman.

Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Republican, easily won a third term, defeating Barbara Ann Radnofsky, a Democrat.

SENATE

100% reporting

Hutchison: 2,654,869 61.7%

Radnofsky: 1,554,305 36.1%

GOVERNOR

100% reporting

Perry: 1,715,324 39%

Bell: 1,309,828 29.8%

Strayhorn: 789,700 18%

Friedman: 553,493 12.6%

22ND DIST.

100% reporting

Lampson: 76,782 52%

Gibbs: 61,949 42%

Virginia

With control of the Senate at stake, Jim Webb, a Democrat, clung to a paper-thin lead over Senator George Allen, the Republican incumbent. While Mr. Webb declared himself "senator-elect," Mr. Allen had not conceded.

The Associated Press said that after contacting all 134 localities where voting occurred, it had Mr. Webb leading by about 7,200 votes. The Virginia race was the last undecided for the Senate and would give Democrats a tie-breaking vote if Mr. Webb prevailed. Without it, ties in the Senate would be decided by Vice President Dick Cheney. State law allows a candidate to ask for a recount in a race this close, but Mr. Allen had not indicated whether he would request one. In modern history, Virginia's only two recounts ended in a change of no more than a few hundred votes, The A.P. said.

Mr. Allen had been expected to win a second term easily but was hobbled by campaign miscues, including calling a Webb supporter of Indian descent "macaca" at a campaign rally in August. That began a steady slide for Mr. Allen and opened the door for the Democrats.

With a loss, he would have himself and his advisers to blame, said Mark J. Rozell, a political science professor at George Mason University. "There was nothing more damaging than the macaca incident," Mr. Rozell said. "That just set in motion this whole change in the tenor of his campaign."

Mr. Webb, a Vietnam veteran who was Navy secretary in the administration of President Ronald Reagan, switched parties in opposition to President Bush's handling of the war in Iraq and made it the cornerstone of his campaign. Election returns showed that he did well in the inner cities and growing exurban communities in Prince William and Loudoun Counties, while Mr. Allen did well in rural areas and the suburbs. Military veterans favored Mr. Allen, who has never served in the military, while Mr. Webb did well among voters opposing the war.

In House races, the incumbent Republicans, Representatives Thelma D. Drake and Frank R. Wolf, held on in the hotly contested 2nd and 10th Districts. Opposing them were the Democrats Philip Kellam and Judy Feder. Voters also passed a state constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

SENATE

100% reporting

Webb: 1,172,541 49.6%

Allen: 1,165,324 49.3%

2ND DIST.

100% reporting

Drake: 88,364 51.4%

Kellam: 83,476 48.6%

10TH DIST.

100% reporting

Wolf: 137,956 57.3%

Feder: 98,710 41%

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