Analysis of Final Vote Data by Representative District

O'Donnell Boosts GOP; Democratic Turnout Wave Did Not Occur

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2010 DE ELECTION STUDY

Analysis of final voting data in the State of Delaware for the election held on November 2, 2010 demonstrates conclusively – with all underlying data, tabulation, and supporting source information posted at www.Christine2010.com – the following observations.

Key Points

- A theorized wave of Democratic voter turnout **did not occur**
- Ms. O'Donnell's candidacy significantly boosted **Republican participation**
- Overall, Republican participation rates increased over that of Democratic voters, with the GOP **surging** downstate
- Compared to the 2006 GOP Senate candidate, **Ms. O'Donnell took a greater share of votes cast in 39 of 41 Representative Districts**
- Ms. O'Donnell **outperformed** down-ticket candidates in **multiple locations**, including the 14th, 32nd, and 41st Representative Districts
- As a percentage of voter registration, Democrats statewide voted in **slightly** higher proportions as in 2006, eclipsed by **GOP surge** by a factor of nearly one and three-quarters

Important Considerations

- Since 2002, New Castle County GOP membership **fell** 6.60%; Democratic membership vaulted 29.91%
- Statewide, Democratic registration efforts since 2002 padded membership by 31.12%; DE GOP gained only 4.74%
- Exit polling data strongly suggests a disproportionate number of New Castle Republicans who voted **did not support their nominee**.

- A significant proportion of New Castle Republicans who voted in the 2010 Primary did not vote in the General Election
- Ms. O'Donnell faced a divided Party highlighted by the sharp divide of New Castle and downstate Delaware
- Cited as the most media covered candidate of the 2010 election cycle, Ms. O'Donnell's race was markedly distinct from other campaigns

Common Misconceptions

Opinion: Fewer Republicans voted in 2010 than in the previous off-year election.
Fact: In 2006 90,176 Republicans voted in the general election. In 2010 102,225 Republicans voted.

Opinion: Christine O'Donnell repressed GOP turnout and motivated Democrats to vote, reversing a national trend.
Fact: Republican turnout rates increased in every Representative District in 2010 compared to 2006. Furthermore, in all but two Representative Districts, she took a greater percentage of votes cast than the GOP nominee for Senate in 2006. To infer that the muted increase in Democratic turnout rates is 'due to a desire to vote against Christine O'Donnell personally' is not rooted in hard facts.

Opinion: Christine O'Donnell received fewer votes in 2010 than in her 2008 Senate run.
Fact: In assessing different elections, one must compare like-to-like cycles. Presidential election years are historically noted for increased turnout across party and demographic lines. Indeed, Ms. O'Donnell's share of the electorate increased over 13% from 2008 to 2010. The Democratic candidate's share fell over 12.5% because Democratic candidate voters fell more than that of Republican candidate voters from 2008 to 2010.

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Sources Consulted

"CNN Election Center 2010," CNN, accessed January 9, 2011.
http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2010/results/polls/#val=DES01p1

"State of Delaware – Election Results," accessed January 9, 2011. http://elections.delaware.gov/

"Delaware Voter Registration Totals," accessed January 9, 2011.
http://elections.delaware.gov/services/candidate/regtotals.shtml

Methodology

Data for this study is publically available from the State of Delaware Department of Elections. This can be divided into three parts:

(i)   Turnout and registration statistics by year

(ii)   Election returns organized by office and Election District

(iii)   Voter registration database (current as of 12/06/10)

Multiple software packages served to format, arrange, calculate, and compare data from the above sources. Particular techniques included (but were not limited to):

·   Pivot table mapping and calculated field generation

·   Structured table referencing

·   Formula construction with AutoCorrect

·   Checksum columns and tables

·   Advanced querying and data presentation

In addition, exit polling data was consulted in light of the empirical findings from the above activities.

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