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2020 Washington State Election Update

November 6, 2020

Washington State is still counting ballots and will continue to do so for the next two weeks as long as the mail in ballots are postmarked on or prior to Election Day. That means the first returns are a reasonable indicator of most results, but a few key races remain too close to call. For the latest results from statewide, congressional and local legislative elections, visit: <https://results.vote.wa.gov/results/20201103/>

From the initial returns, Washington is not experiencing a large blue wave – but Democrats are maintaining their solid legislative majorities and firm grip on all but one of the statewide elected offices. Here are the major election highlights:

House Democrats are holding on to their 57-41 majority: Democrats are highly likely to maintain the same majority split post-election. Democrats have defeated a GOP incumbent in one race but Republicans are beating a Democratic incumbent in another. In a GOP-held open seat, a Republican challenger is slightly trailing but insiders expect the Republican to win.

Senate Democrats are maintaining their 28-21 majority – for now: Just like the House, a Democratic challenger is defeating a Republican incumbent and a Republican challenger has beat a long-time Democratic senator. There's one race that favors a GOP appointee – but he has a razor-thin lead over a Democratic candidate. If Democrats were to win this race, their majority would increase to 29-20.

Statewide races stay blue: Democrats Gov. Jay Inslee, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kriedler, and all statewide incumbents are winning except the state's Republican treasurer. Auditor Kim Wyman's re-election victory means she is the only Republican serving in statewide office.

Top two Democrat v. Democrat races: This general election showed the beginning of a trend in which progressive left Democrats are challenging moderate-to-mainstream liberal Democrats to attempt to move these Democrat seats to the far left. Last night there were six Democrat-only general election races and the results were mixed.

Key Races:

Congressional:

- In the state's only open Congressional seat, business-friendly Democrat Marilyn Strickland beat state Rep. Beth Doglio in this Democrat v Democrat race.

Statewide:

- Insurance Commissioner Mike Kriedler easily won re-election to a sixth term. Kriedler was first elected in 2000.
- In the Democrat v Democrat race for the Lt. Governor's open seat, Congressman Denny Heck defeated state Sen. Marko Liias.

State Senate:

- **5th District - Democrat seat in East King County, Issaquah:** As of Thursday night, conservative Democratic Sen. Mark Mullet has an 18-vote lead over challenger Ingrid Anderson in this Democrat v Democrat race. Mullet, who is chair of the committee that oversees bills related to P&C insurance, is a moderating and business-friendly voice in the Senate Democratic caucus. A Mullet loss will push the Senate Democrats further to the left.
- **10th District - Republican seat in Skagit County and Whidbey Island:** GOP-appointed Sen. Ron Muzzall is slightly ahead of long-time County Councilmember Helen Price Johnson. This race is too close to call.
- **19th District - Democrat seat in Grays Harbor, Longview:** Longtime Democrat Sen. Dean Takko lost to GOP challenger Jeff Wilson, a Port of Longview Commissioner.
- **28th District - Republican seat in Lakewood, University Place:** Republican Sen. Steve O'Ban is trailing University Place school board member T'wina Nobles.

State House:

- **10th District – Republican seat in Skagit County and Whidbey Island:** While former Democratic county commissioner Angie Homola has a slight lead over Republican Greg Gilday in this swing district race to replace GOP Rep. Norma Smith, Gilday is expected to pick up enough voters in later ballot counts to win this seat.
- **17th District – Republican seat in suburban east and north Vancouver:** In later ballot counts, Rep. Vicki Kraft has pulled ahead of Democratic challenger Tanisha Harris.
- **19th District – Democratic seat in Grays Harbor and Longview:** Veteran Rep. Brian Blake, the most conservative member of the House Democratic Caucus, is trailing GOP Joel McIntire. While the race is still too close to call, McIntire is likely to prevail.
- **28th District – Democratic seat in Lakewood and University Place:** Democratic candidate Daniel Bronoske is holding the seat over Republican candidate Chris Nye.
- **42nd District – One Democratic seat, one Republican seat in Bellingham:** Democrat Rep. Sharon Shewmake has beat GOP challenger Jennifer Sefzik and in the other seat Republican Rep. Luanne Van Werven has lost to Democratic challenger Alicia Rule.
- **43rd District – Democratic seat in Capitol Hill, Fremont:** Former House Speaker Frank Chopp glided to a solid victory in his D v D general election race.