About the Capital: Preliminary N.C. Election Results

November 7, 2012- Just After Midnight! (NC Free Enterprise Foundation)

As of midnight on Election Night, here is what we know from unofficial, preliminary election results in North Carolina:

Statewide Voter Turnout: Voter turnout was 68.37% with 4,546,330 ballots cast out of 6,649,188 registered voters. This percentage is down slightly from the nearly 70 percent turnout in the last presidential election in 2008.

President: Mitt Romney won the state with 50.44% of the vote (a difference of 96,742 votes out of 4,507,483 votes cast for President).

U.S. House: NC's Congressional Delegation appears to have shifted from 7 Democrats and 6 Republicans to 9 Republicans and 4 Democrats. Incumbent Mike McIntyre (D) is leading state Sen. David Rouzer (R) by only 507 votes in U.S. House 7. The State Board of Elections has already announced there will be a recount here, and Rouzer has yet to concede. Incumbent Larry Kissell (D) was defeated by GOP challenger Richard Hudson in U.S. House 8, and Republicans Mark Meadows (U.S. House 11) and George Holding (U.S. House 13) won open seat races.

Governor: Republican Pat McCrory defeated Democratic Lt. Governor Walter Dalton for Governor with 54.7% of the vote, an eleven-and-a-half point margin.

Lt. Governor: Republican Dan Forest leads Democrat Linda Coleman in this open seat race by only 11,206 votes out of 4,372,846 votes cast, raising the possibility of a recount.

Council of State: All incumbent Council of State members successfully defended their seats. These include the following 6 Democrats: Attorney General Roy Cooper (D), Auditor Beth Wood (D), Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin (D), Secretary of State Elaine Marshall (D), Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson (D), and State Treasurer Janet Cowell (D), as well as 2 Republicans: Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry (R) and Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler (R).

N.C. Supreme Court: Incumbent Associate Justice Paul Newby defended his seat from challenger Sam J. Ervin, IV by capturing 51.97% of the vote.

N.C. Court of Appeals: Incumbent State Court of Appeals judges Linda McGee and Wanda Bryant defended their seats, while appointed incumbent Cressie Thigpen lost his election bid to challenger Chris Dillon. Incidentally, Chris Dillon was the only non-incumbent Court of Appeals challenger whose name appeared first on the ballot.

N.C. Senate: It appears that Republicans extended their lead in the state Senate by one seat, claiming a 32 to 18 seat majority (up from a 31-19 seat majority). Incumbent Senator Doug Berger lost to GOP challenger Chad Barefoot in Senate District 18. Nine of the 18 members of the Senate Democratic Caucus are African-Americans, possibly setting the stage for a challenge by an African-American for Senate Minority Leader.

N.C. House: It appears that Republicans extended their lead in the state House by nine seats, from a 68 to 52 majority to a 77 to 43 seat majority. Incumbent Democrats Martha Alexander, Marian McLawhorn and Ray Rapp, and well as Republican G.L. Pridgen lost their re-election bids. Twenty-two of the 43 members of the House Democratic Caucus, or 51%, are African-American, potentially setting the stage for an African-American House Minority Leader.