2008 State Legislative Elections

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Un-Altered--Democratic Control Since Reconstruction
Party Control Shifts—2008

Democratic Gains
- Delaware House
- Nevada Senate
- New York Senate
- Ohio House
- Wisconsin Assembly

Republican Gains
- Montana Senate
- Oklahoma Senate
- Tennessee House
- Tennessee Senate

Tied
- Alaska Senate

Undecided
- Montana House-likely 50-50
- Texas House 76 R- 74 D
Legislative Seats Held by Party 1938–2008
Seat Changes by Region
2006–2008

- East: +38 Democrat
- Midwest: +41 Democrat
- South: +6 Republican
- West: +25 Democrat
Democratic Share of Seats in the South 1938 - 2008

- 1938: 94%
- 2008: 53.5%

The graph shows a declining trend in the Democratic share of seats in the South from 1938 to 2008.
Governor's Party Post-Election 2008

Democrat-29
Republican-21
Coattails -- Fate of White House Winner in Legislatures in Presidential Election Year

Seats Gained or Lost

-400 -300 -200 -100 0 100 200 300 400 500 600

Reverse Coattails...

This year, only 22 percent of the nation’s counties voted more Republican...

Compared to 2004, each county voted more...

Republican

+20 pct. pts.
+10
+5
Fate of President's Party in Legislatures in Mid-Term Elections

Seats Gained or Lost

-1000 -800 -600 -400 -200 0 200 400
Leadership Changes

- Nearly One-Third of Leaders will be New to the Job in January--Surprise Losses:
  - Delaware Speaker Terry Spence (R)
  - Utah Speaker Greg Curtis (R)
  - Iowa Senate President Pro Tem Jeff Danielson (D)
  - Rhode Island Senate President Joseph Montalbano (D).

- Bipartisan Coalition Leadership in Alaska Senate and Louisiana House

- Colorado first state ever to be led by two African-American presiding officers
  - Senate President Peter Groff
  - House Speaker Terrance Carroll
Final Observations

- Democrats made gains although they were limited due to success in 2006.
- Republicans can claim some victories—they gained some key chambers and losses could have been worse.
- Turnover will be about average and maybe less than 20%.
- Now the hard work begins.
Thank You!

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