



This Week in State Tax (TWIST)

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Multistate: Elections Bring Moderate Change to State Legislatures

Over 7,800 legislative seats were on the ballot on November 5th. While trend in votes was similar to the presidential election, the overall impact on party control of state legislative bodies was modest at best. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), prior to the election, Republicans held the majority in both houses of the legislature in 28 states, and Democrats controlled both bodies in 20 states, with just Pennsylvania having divided control. [Nebraska has a single body unicameral legislature, and members are elected on a nonpartisan basis.] In post-election results, Michigan will move to divided control as Republicans won control of the house as will Minnesota where Republicans gained sufficient seats in the house to move into a tie with Democrats. Pennsylvania will remain under divided control as Democrats retained their majority in the house.

Maine and Alaska remain in a bit of flux. The Maine Morning Star reports that while not all results are final, it appears that Democrats will retain control of the house of representatives as well as the state senate. In Alaska, the Anchorage Daily News and other outlets are reporting that a coalition of Democrats and Independents have announced a coalition that will operate as the majority in the house of representatives, replacing a Republican and Independent coalition that controlled the house for the last two years. If those results hold, Republicans will control both houses of the legislature in 27 states, Democrats will control both bodies in 18 states, and control of the chambers will be split in four states. There was no change in party control among the 11 gubernatorial elections. Post-election, Republicans will have a “trifecta” (both legislative chambers and governorship) in 22 states, Democrats will control all three in 15, and 12 will have divided control. Readers are advised that with recounts and potential realignments of coalitions, these results could change somewhat.

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