**Federal Elections**

**U.S. Senate**

Across the nation, 33 of the 100 Senate seats are up for election. Republicans

currently have the majority with 51 seats to the Democrat’s 47 seats. There are 2

Independent Senators who both caucus with the Democrats. This year, both of

Minnesota’s Senate seats are on the ballot.

United States Senate Seat – 1

Incumbent Senator Amy Klobuchar (D) defeated State Representative Jim

Newberger (R)

United States Senate Seat – 2

Incumbent Senator Tina Smith (D) defeated State Senator Karin Housley (R)

§ This is a special election. Senator Smith was named to this seat by

Governor Mark Dayton following Senator Al Franken’s resignation

§ This seat will also be up for election in 2020

**House of Representatives**

All 435 House seats were up for election. Currently, the Republicans have the majority with 235 seats to the Democrat’s 193 seats. There are 7 vacant seats. This cycle, 4 of Minnesota’s 8 congressional races were highly competitive and have garnered national attention. Democrats ousted two suburban Republicans and Republicans appear to have picked up both rural seats that were open.

First Congressional District – Open seat because Tim Walz Running for Gov

Jim Hagedorn (R) appears to have narrowly beat Dan Feehan (D) with one precinct outstanding. He is currently up by 1577 votes.

Second Congressional District

Angie Craig (D) beat incumbent Representative Jason Lewis (R) in the south suburban district

Third Congressional District

Dean Phillips (D) won against incumbent Representative Erik Paulsen (R) by a wide margin in the west suburban district

Fourth Congressional District

Incumbent Representative Betty McCollum (D) won against Greg Ryan (R)

Fifth Congressional District

State Representative Ilhan Omar (D) defeated Jennifer Zielinski (R)

Sixth Congressional District

Incumbent Representative Tom Emmer (R) beat Ian Todd (D)

Seventh Congressional District

Incumbent Collin Peterson (D) defeated Dave Hughes (R)

Eighth Congressional District

Saint Louis County Commissioner Pete Stauber (R) defeated former State

Representative Joe Radinovich (D) for a Republican pickup in this open seat

**Statewide Elections**

Governor and Lieutenant Governor

U.S. Representative Tim Walz and State Representative Peggy Flanagan beat the Republican Hennepin County Commissioner Jeff Johnson and Donna Bergstrom.

Attorney General

U.S. Representative Keith Ellison (D) won against former State Representative Doug Wardlow (R)

Secretary of State

Incumbent Secretary Steve Simon (D) defeated former State Senator John Howe (R)

State Auditor

Julie Blaha (D) beat former State Representative Pam Myhra (R)

**State Legislative Races**

Senate

The Minnesota Senate is not up for election until 2020. However, there was a special election in Senate District 13 seat which was vacated when State Senator Michelle Fischbach became Lieutenant Governor

after Governor Dayton appointed former Lieutenant Governor to the United States Senate.

Republicans have 33 seats and Democrats have 33 seats. Republicans held that open seat last night as State Representative John Howe (R) defeated Stearns County Commissioner Joe Perske (D).

House of Representatives

All 134 House seats were up for election. Currently, Republicans have the majority with 77 seats to the Democrat’s 57 seats. DFLers needed a net pick-up of just 11 seats to take the majority. The DFL started with one win before voting even took place since Rep. Jim Knoblach withdrew from the race in 14B in September. In the end, the **DFL was able to flip 18 seats, 16 of which were in the suburbs**. One seat in northern Minnesota was taken by a former DFL Representative by just 4 votes.

House incumbents who were defeated

* 5A: Former Representative John Persell (D) won against incumbent Representative Matt Bliss by 4 votes. This narrow margin triggers an automatic recount
* 14B: Representative Jim Knoblach (R) suspended his campaign in September. Dan Wolgamott (D) won.
* 33B: Representative Cindy Pugh (R) lost to Kelly Morrison (D)
* 34B: Representative Dennis Smith (R) was defeated by Kristin Bahner (D)
* 42A: Representative Randy Jessup (R) lost to Kelly Moller (D)
* 44A: Representative Sarah Anderson (R) lost to Ginny Klevorn (D)
* 48B: Representative Jenifer Loon (R) was defeated by Carlie Kotyza-Witthun (D)
* 49A: Representative Dario Anselmo (R) lost to Heather Edelson (D)
* 50B: Representative Kathy Lohmer (R) was defeated by Shelly Christensen (D)
* 52B: Representative Regina Barr (R) lost to Ruth Richardson (D)
* 53B: Representative Kelly Fenton (R) was defeated by Steve Sandell (D)
* 54A: Representative Keith Franke (R) lost to Anne Claflin (D)
* 56A: Representative Drew Christensen (R) was beaten by Hunter Cantrell (D)
* 56B: Representative Roz Peterson (R) was defeated Alice Mann (D)
* 57B: Representative Anna Wills (R) lost to John Huot (D)

Below are results from open races.

* 6B: Dave Lislegard (D) defeated Skeeter Tomczak (R)
* 15B: Shane Mekeland (R) defeated Karla Scapanski (D) and Myron Wilson (I)
* 19A: Jeff Brand (D) beat Kim Spears (R)
* 20B: Todd Lippert (D) defeated Josh Gare (R)
* 34A: Kristin Robbins (R) won against Dan Solon (D)
* 36A: Zack Stephenson (D) beat Bill Maresh (R)
* 38B: Ami Wazlawik (D) defeated Patti Anderson (R)
* 40B: Samantha Vang (D) won against Robert Marvin (R)
* 44B: Patty Acomb (D) beat Gary Porter (R)
* 47B: Greg Boe (R) won against Donzel Leggett (D)
* 49B: Steve Elkins (D) defeated Matt Sikich (R)
* 50A: Mike Howard (D) beat Kirsten Johnson (R)
* 52B: Tou Xiong (D) won against Andy Turonie (R)
* 55A: Brad Tabke (D) beat Erik Mortensen (R)
* 57A: Robert Bierman (D) defeated Matt Lundin (R) and Matthew Swenson (L)
* 60B: Mohamud Noor (D) beat Joseph Patiño (R)
* 64A: Kaohly Her (D) won against Patrick Griffin (R)
* 67B: Jay Xiong (D) beat Fred Turk (R)

**Takeaways**

Though the blue wave was overall less than expected nationally, the DFL now controls a huge contiguous part of the metro area that includes Minneapolis, St. Paul and several layers of suburbs. You would have to travel out to outer suburbs like Lakeville, Blaine, Hastings and Maple Grove to find an area that will still be represented by Republicans.

Republicans lost 18 seats and are 9 seats short of the majority. The 9 closest races that they lost were decided by a total of 3715 votes.

Minnesota is the only state in the nation with a divided legislature.

**Nearly $34 million has flowed into Minnesota’s campaigns for Governor, Attorney General, and Statehouse**. This is on top of the huge spending on federal elections – likely to top $100 million.

Pre-election reports showed spending to support DFL candidates for Governor, Attorney General, and the Statehouse is nearly $10 million greater than for GOP candidates.

Jeff Johnson was outspent by 3 to 1 by Tim Walz.

Two biggest causes of the Republican losses are: 1) being significantly outspent and 2) Republican mishandling of the health insurance issue surrounding pre-existing conditions.