



2014 Results Summary

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The 2014 elections are in the books and while Democratic losses reached historic levels there were some lessons to be learned and bright spots for progressives to celebrate. It was not that Republican candidates were great, it was that Democratic candidates were weak and we can fix that. Losses in states like Iowa, Nevada, and Ohio mounted due to uninspiring Democrats at the top of the ballot. Alma Adams did in fact become the 100th woman to serve in the 113th Congress and the 114th Congress will add at least three more to that tally. Women of color will enjoy better representation with 32 House Members slated to be seated in January.

In the Senate Democrats lost control of the chamber but gained in stature with the elevation of superstar Senator Elizabeth Warren to a leadership position. The new Senate will be led by Republican obstructionists that will have to appease at least five Democrats to move legislation — a task that became significantly more difficult given the smaller and more progressive composition of the Democratic caucus.

The House saw Republicans pad their majority with the many moderate Republicans winning close races. This will impact how Speaker Boehner may legislate and could further ostracize the far-right tea partiers.

At the state level Democrats lost four critical governorships in Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois and Arkansas, but won in Pennsylvania. Nationwide Democrats also lost eleven legislative chambers.

So what happened? Big money certainly disguised voter's economic self-interest, so those who voted to increase the minimum wage also voted for anti-union Gubernatorial candidates, for instance. Democrat Candidates who criticized Obama's mistakes couldn't offer compelling alternatives and appeared to pander to polls of likely voters. Candidates and media missed the opportunity to claim the big picture, the moral world view of good government as a system we build on, not starve which produced an inchoate mass of individuals who cannot effectively wield systemic power. Am I annoyed or what? Republican habits of recruiting women and people of color went unmatched by Dems, discouraging the rising American electorate.

Nationally Democrats were plagued by candidates that lacked the fire-in-the-belly will that progressive champions like Elizabeth Warren have made central to their platform. When these centrists ran at the top of the state ticket, they proved too immobile for the down ticket candidates to overcome. In Ohio Nina Turner shared the ballot with an ethically challenged Democrat running for Governor. The headwinds proved too much. Democrats also suffered monumental losses in Iowa (3 House Seats & 1

Senate Seat) and Nevada (1 House District & both Legislative Chambers), each dominated by uncompetitive Gubernatorial races. Meanwhile Oregon Democrats made gains at the state legislative level thanks to strong Gubernatorial and Senate candidates leading the ballot.

In Texas Wendy Davis gave it everything she had. We still believe that Wendy has plenty to offer but missteps throughout her campaign and a reliance on aggressive voter turnout proved too hard. In the end her nuanced message just did not connect with voters and she earned just 39% of the vote, losing by a similar margin as her running mate Letica Van de Putte. Neither candidate was able to mobilize the Latino vote effectively, less than six in ten Latino voters supported the Democrats.

In nearby New Hampshire mixed results led to the reelection of Senator Jeanne Shaheen, Rep Annie Kuster and Gov Maggie Hassan while Rep Carol Shea Porter lost her bid to return to Congress in a decades long battle with Frank Guinta. Hassan ran a strong campaign and identified with voters. Shaheen survived Scott Brown. Hassan's success and her pragmatic approach have led her name to be mentioned as a possible Senatorial candidate in 2016. Whether running for Governor or Senate — we need Maggie Hassan on the ballot in 2016.

In California Rep Barbara Lee and AG Kamala Harris provide the best example of what strong progressive leadership can yield. Running with popular Governor Jerry Brown at the top of the ticket, Barbara Lee won 88% of the vote and Kamala Harris earned 58% of the vote. Lee will continue to push for progressive priorities in Congress while Harris could be representing California in the Senate soon.

Shenna Bellows and Heather Mizeur lost their campaigns this year but each can build from their strong efforts. Both have bright futures. Bellows would have been more competitive in any other cycle and even with the high turnout, the attention on the Maine Gubernatorial race she and other progressives in Maine found it difficult to break into the political conversation. Mizeur ran a strong effort in the Maryland Gubernatorial Primary and finished the cycle as the big winner among the three Democratic candidates, who ultimately lost the contest. We'll keep you posted on her next move.

Massachusetts has more potential energy than kinetic. Our candidate development process has short term pragmatism (whoever has current name recognition is dubbed the front runner for the Dems) and needs a concerted effort by political forces of party, labor, civic organizations and donors to nominate and run effective candidates more oriented to the 99%. While she has proven to be an amazing and effective Attorney General, Martha Coakley rose through the system which rewards solid, tenacious, hard work and good ideas, but doesn't promote connection to the Rising American Electorate. She is the third solid statewide office holder to lose the electorate.

Meanwhile openly gay, big bank curbing Maura Healy will be Attorney General. Rep Seth Moulton, a 36-year-old Iraq War veteran will also bring a fresh perspective as he replaces ethically damaged John Tierney, clearly even the frequent voters who turned out respond to morals more than competence.

True, our listed candidates on Maria's List lost more than won but we proudly drove the political discourse towards bread and butter issues like jobs, schools and social safety net. Our opportunity today is insisting on policies that create wealth in low income and female households, on using excellent public education as the opportunity to become a contributing member of society, and reshaping the system for choosing and keeping public leaders.

Elected Champions

[Kamala Harris](#) (California Attorney General)
[Maggie Hassan](#) (New Hampshire Governor)
[Barbara Lee](#) (California 13th)
[Jeanne Shaheen](#) (New Hampshire Senate)
[Elizabeth Warren](#) (Massachusetts Senate –
Elected Leadership)

Inspired Efforts

[Shenna Bellows](#) (Maine Senate)
[Martha Coakley](#) (Massachusetts Governor)
[Wendy Davis](#) (Texas Governor)
[Heather Mizeur](#) (Maryland Governor)
[Carol Shea-Porter](#) (New Hampshire 1st)
[Nina Turner](#) (Ohio SOS)
[Letica Van de Putte](#) (Texas Lt. Governor)



WEBSITE



California Attorney General Kamala Harris

Attorney General Kamala Harris is an aggressive progressive, and her record proves it. She was re-elected in November earning 58% of the vote. Her future is bright as she begins her Senate campaign.

WEBSITE



Gov. Maggie Hassan, New Hampshire

Governor Maggie Hassan was the only female Democratic Governor in the nation. While she now shares that distinction with Gina Raimondo in Rhode Island her standing with the people of New Hampshire has not wavered. She won 53% of the vote in a state that saw competitive races throughout the ballot.

WEBSITE



US Rep. Barbara Lee

Congresswoman Barbara Lee is a true champion of global peace and equality and her constituents rewarded her with 88% of the vote in November.

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US Senator Jeanne Shaheen

Senator Shaheen finally dispatched Scott Brown once and hopefully for all. She won with 52% of the vote, maintaining female majority in the New Hampshire Congressional delegation.



US Senator Elizabeth Warren

Senator Warren was not on the ballot but her expedient ascension to leadership in the Senate ranks as a huge win for progressives.

WEBSITE



Shenna Bellows

Shenna Bellows is earning recognition in national political circles. The upstart former Executive Director of Maine's ACLU chapter is a first-time political candidate who faced tremendous headwinds on her way to securing 32% of the vote. You have not heard the last of Ms. Bellows.

WEBSITE

FACEBOOK



Martha Coakley: Massachusetts Attorney General and Candidate for Governor.

Martha Coakley gave Charlie Baker everything she had but ultimately lost by 1%. A tough primary campaign cost this much-improved campaigner dearly.

WEBSITE

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Wendy Davis & Leticia Van de Putte: Candidates for Governor & Lt. Governor of Texas

Wendy Davis and **Leticia Van de Putte** were the best chance for Democrats in Texas since Anne Richards. Unfortunately, Texas is not trending blue as quickly as some had hoped and each lost with approximately 39% of the vote.

Davis will look to rebound and no doubt continue the good progressive fight, while Van de Putte has already announced her intention to run for Mayor of San Antonio.

WEBSITE



Heather Mizeur

Heather Mizeur ran a spirited campaign for Governor of Maryland. While she lost in the three-way primary with 22% of the vote, she notably had to quell write-in movements just weeks before Election Day. We are keeping our eyes on her.

WEBSITE



Representative Carol Shea-Porter

Representative Carol Shea-Porter has seen her political fortunes rise and fall seemingly every other cycle. She kept the streak alive losing a tough campaign to perennial nemesis Frank Guinta 52% - 48%.

WEBSITE



State Senator Nina Turner

Nina Turner is an Ohio State Senator that lost her bid for Secretary of State. She is young and charismatic with plenty of opportunities in her future. She will not be deterred by her 35% vote share in 2014.