

WVHA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

November 6, 2024

TO: WVHA Member Hospital and Health System CEOs, HOSPAC Board of Trustees, Legislative Committee, Government Relations

FROM: Tony Gregory, VP, Legislative Affairs and HOSPAC Vice Treasurer

RE: **2024 General Election Results**

The unofficial results of the 2024 state General Election are in, and it was a clean sweep for Republicans in statewide races, including for executive branch offices and Congress. The GOP in the state Senate and House also gained seats (*1 in the Senate and 2 in the House*) bringing the composition of the Legislature to the following:

- **WV Senate - 32 Republicans and 2 Democrats**
- **WV House - 91 Republicans and 9 Democrats**

This represents supermajorities in both chambers of the Legislature, along with the sweep of executive branch offices and all the state's congressional seats. Winners and observations of the statewide offices are listed below followed by observations in the state Senate and House. All the unofficial results of these races are found [here](#). HOSPAC did not contribute to the statewide races listed below – *only state legislative races*. If you have any questions, please contact [me](#).

Statewide Offices

- Governor – Patrick Morrisey (R) with 61% of vote vs. Steve Williams (D) 31%
- U.S. Senate – Jim Justice (R) with 69% of the vote vs. Glenn Elliott (D) 28%
- U.S. House of Representative District 1 – Carol Miller (R) 66% of the vote
- U.S. House of Representative District 2 – Riley Moore (R) 71% of the vote
- Attorney General- J.B McKuskey (R) 70% of the vote
- Secretary of State – Kris Warner (R) 71% of the vote
- Auditor – Mark Hunt (R) 69% of the vote
- Treasurer – Larry Pack (R) unopposed

- Commissioner of Agriculture – Kent Leonhart (R) 69% of the vote

A few additional observations re: statewide races:

- Morrisey is a three-term Attorney General and has promoted issues like reducing taxes, regulations, and workforce rules to improve West Virginia's economic standing compared to its closest neighbors. WVHA looks forward to collaborating with the new Governor on these and other issues as he begins his transition to Office and starts the Regular Session in February.
- Justice moves on to Washington and will serve as a first-year Senator alongside longtime Senator Shelley Moore Capito. This marks the first time since 1958 that 2 Republicans have represented West Virginia in the U.S. Senate.
- Riley Moore is the newcomer to Congress representing West Virginia's House District 1 (Northern WV), serving alongside re-elected Congresswoman Carol Miller, representing House District 2 (Southern WV). Moore, who was the state treasurer, is the nephew of Senator Capito. Larry Pack will now take over as State Treasurer.
- Mark Hunt, elected as the state Auditor will need to step down as current Senator from Kanawha Co. Senate District 8. The Republican Executive Committee will submit 3 names to the Governor for consideration and appointment, and the timing of that is unclear at this point.

West Virginia State Senate

- Half of the 34 seats in the state Senate were up this election cycle. Senators serve four-year terms with half of those seats up for election every two years (2026).
- There will be 7 new legislators in the Senate.
- The Senate had just 3 Democrats and 31 Republicans. Democrats managed to keep 1 seat with the election of Delegate Joey Garcia in Senate District 13. He filled the vacancy left by Democrat Mike Caputo. HOSPAC contributed to Garcia. Republicans gained 1 seat with the election of Scott Fuller in Senate District 5 vs. Delegate Ric Griffith. This is the seat that was held by long-time Democrat Senator Bob Plymale who chose not to seek reelection. HOSPAC contributed to Fuller.
- With these changes, make-up in the Senate is now 32-2. Garcia and Mike Woelfel are the lone Democrats in the Senate.
- All but 1 candidate in the Senate that HOSPAC contributed to won reelection. Democrat Jeff Disibbio in Senate District 6 was defeated by Republican Craig Hart.
- The Primary loss of Senate President Craig Blair – in the 15th District – triggers leadership and committee chair changes in the Senate for next session. Along with a new President, the Senate will have a new Senate Health Committee Chair resulting from the Primary defeat of Mike Maroney in Senate District 2. There will also be a new Judiciary Chair because Senator Charles Trump won election to the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. His vacancy will need to be appointed by the Governor.

- With the election now over and the loss of key leaders, we expect the discussions of who will be part of Senate Leadership and Committee chairs/composition to heat up and we will keep you posted on latest developments. Senate Republicans will likely have more closed-door meetings in the weeks ahead to discuss who may be the next Senate President.
- For the unofficial results of West Virginia State Senate races visit [here](#).

West Virginia House of Delegates

- The House of Delegates entered the General Election with Republicans having an 89 to 11 advantage and ended the night with 2 more seats stretching that majority to 91 to 9. Delegates serve a two-year term and are up for election every two years (2026).
- There will be about 20 new legislators in the House, some of whom have a relationship or background to health care including: Bill Flanigan who's spouse is an anesthesiologist in the northern panhandle; Sarah Drennan who is a NICU nurse at Hoops Family Children's Hospital; Happy Joe Parsons who serves on the WVU Medicine Jackson General Hospital Board; Michael Amos, a physician at Valley Health Primary Care in the Cabell County area; nurse Tresa Howell from Kanawha County; and Bryan Smith, an administrative assistant at WVU Medicine J. Ruby Memorial Hospital. We will continue to do our outreach to new and returning Delegates.
- Every incumbent Republican seeking reelection won and the GOP picked up 2 seats formerly held by Democrats: one of those in Wayne County (Amos replacing Ric Griffith); and the other in eastern Kanawha County (Howell replacing Larry Rowe). As noted above, both new legislators are health care providers.
- Democrats were able to hang on to a seat in Marion County with the election of Rick Garcia. Incumbent Democrats Kayla Young and Hollis Lewis hung on to defeat Republican challengers in Kanawha County – Andrew Anderson and Mark Carter.
- In total, 5 HOSPAC contributed candidates in the House lost their races: 3 Republicans: Andrew Anderson, Mark Carter noted above, and Summer Hartley; and 2 Democrats: Cody Thompson and Lucia Valentine.
- In the 80th House District Hartley was defeated by incumbent Democrat John Williams. HOSPAC chose to contribute to both candidates in that race.
- Leadership changes in the House next session are also expected including a new House Health Committee Chair/Vice Chair resulting from Amy Summers choosing not to seek reelection and the defeat of Heather Tully in the Primary. Other changes include the House Judiciary Committee Chair, which was previously held by Moore Capito, among other anticipated changes.
- For the unofficial results of West Virginia House races visit [here](#).

Constitutional Amendment

West Virginians narrowly approved a constitutional amendment to explicitly prohibit physician-assisted deaths –335,055 in favor and 329,177 against. The explanation provided on ballots was

that “The purpose of this amendment is to protect West Virginians against medically-assisted suicide.” The amendment adds a section to the state Constitution to say, “No person, physician, or health care provider in the State of West Virginia shall participate in the practice of medically assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of a person.” Furthermore, “Nothing in this section prohibits the administration or prescription of medication for the purpose of alleviating pain or discomfort while the patient’s condition follows its natural course; nor does anything in this section prohibit the withholding or withdrawing of life-sustaining treatment, as requested by the patient or the patient’s decision-maker, in accordance with State law. Further, nothing in this section prevents the State from providing capital punishment.”

If you have any questions about the General Election results or candidates who received contributions from HOSPAC, please contact me by e-mail at tgregory@wvha.org or at (304) 545-0128.