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ELECTION 2026

5TH DISTRICT: Spokane GOP U.S. Rep. Baumgartner in tight race with Democrat > A3

WESTNEAT: Forget the blue wave, this was a '100-year flood,' columnist writes > A4

SEATTLE PROPOSITION 1: Sales tax to fund public transportation passes > A6

SUPREME COURT: Judges backed by Democrats take the lead in four races > A7

In historic rout, Democrats flip Congress, rebuke Trump

By JILL COLVIN, MARY CLARE JALONICK AND WILL WEISSERT
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Democrats have won control of the U.S. House and Senate, delivering a shockingly decisive rebuke of Republican governance in Washington and ushering in a new era of congressional resistance to President Donald Trump.

The midterm elections that came to a close Tuesday channeled voters' deep frustrations over high prices, the Iran war and concerns over government corruption.

Democrats routed their rivals across the map, from Texas to Iowa to New Hampshire, including states Trump won by double digits just two years ago.

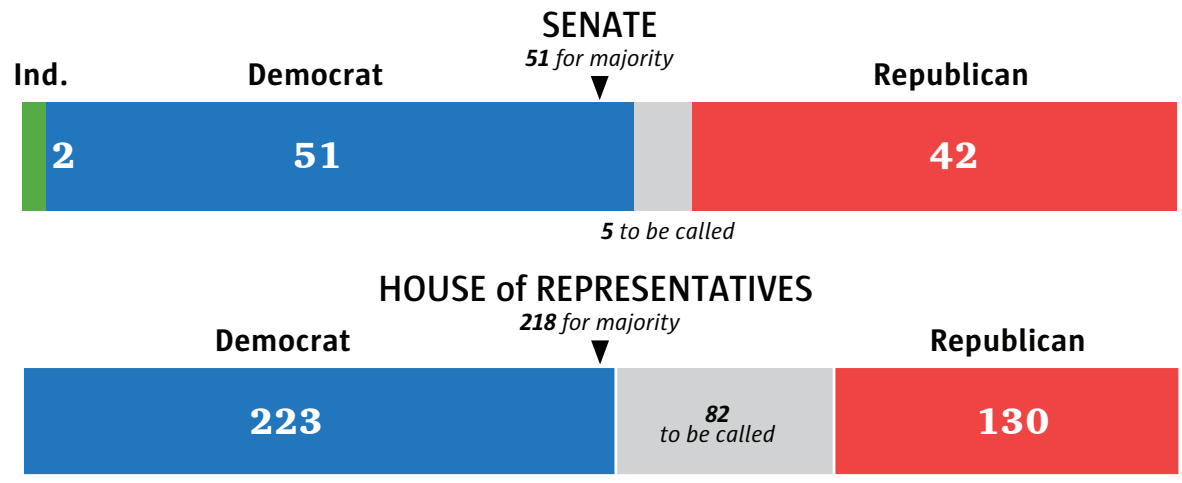
Even Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, a battle-tested survivor of difficult elections, lost to Democrat Troy Jackson.

The results from across the country were a major blow to Trump, who spent nearly every day of the last month holding rallies to energize his supporters but was unable to stop a wipeout.

Democratic control will profoundly reshape Trump's final two years in office and likely hamstring his agenda.

Party leaders have signaled they'll use a foothold in Congress to ensure Trump's final two years in office feature a series of investiga-

See > CONGRESS, A6



Source: The Associated Press — Note: Data as of 11:04 p.m. Tuesday — THE SEATTLE TIMES



JENNIFER BUCHANAN / THE SEATTLE TIMES

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal, center, cheers as fellow Democrats speak during the Washington State Democratic General Election Night Watch Party at Stoup Brewing on Capitol Hill on Tuesday.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

Gluesenkamp Perez wins, buoyed by national wave

By ANUMITA KAUR, DAVID GUTMAN AND NICK WAGNER
Seattle Times staff reporters

U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez secured reelection Tuesday night in Washington's fiercest congressional race, a closely watched contest that strengthened Democrats' grip on the U.S. House.



Marie Gluesenkamp Perez



John Braun

Gluesenkamp Perez led state Sen. John Braun by 11 percentage points Tuesday night. Her wide lead marked a significant departure from her two previous elections, when she clinched the seat by margins of less than 5% — a signal that the Democrats' blue wave reached this southwest corner of Washington.

Washington's 3rd District has been a key seat in the national battle between Democrats and Republicans for control of Congress during the remainder of President Donald Trump's second term. The incumbent, Gluesenkamp Perez, was considered one of the nation's most vulnerable Democrats, while the GOP saw Braun, a longtime state senator endorsed by Trump, as one of their strongest opportunities to flip a seat.

See > 3RD DISTRICT, A3

INCOME TAX

'Millionaires tax' repeal trails, but court challenge still likely

By JIM BRUNNER
Seattle Times political reporter

In Washington's biggest tax fight in decades, voters were backing the state's new high-earners income tax in Tuesday's vote count, rejecting an initiative that would repeal it.

Initiative 645, the tax-repeal proposal, was trailing with 58% of voters opposed. The "no" vote was bolstered by a huge margin in Democrat-dominated King County, where 66.5% of voters were against I-645. It also trailed in Snohomish and Pierce counties.

If Tuesday's result stands, it would mark a tectonic shift in Washington's tax code, ending the state's holdout status as one of a handful without an income tax — keeping in place what backers called the "millionaires tax" passed by the Legislature this year.

Courts will likely still have the last word on the tax as a lawsuit challenging its constitutionality is pending.

Hundreds of thousands of ballots remain to be counted in the coming days.

The mood at the No on 645 campaign, at Seattle's Reverie Ballroom, was upbeat as national results confirmed a good night for Democrats and liberal causes.

Speaking to the crowd, state Senate Majority Leader Jamie Pedersen, D-Seattle, the prime

See > INCOME TAX, A5

TRANS YOUTH ATHLETES

Trans girls sports ban leads, as state poised to join 3 others

By RYAN NGUYEN
Seattle Times education reporter

An effort to ban transgender girls from girls school sports in Washington has a significant lead in election results released Tuesday night.

According to the secretary of state's office, 57% of voters said yes on Initiative 638, one of three ballot measures backed by conservative political committee Let's Go Washington.

Similar initiatives restricting transgender students' participation in school sports were also leading in Colorado, Nebraska and Arizona, a bright spot for conservatives on a night otherwise marked by victories for progressives.

In Washington, more votes will be counted in the coming days, and could determine the future of the blue state's status as a haven for transgender people. Nearly 20 years ago, Washington made history as the first state to allow transgender students to compete on sports teams consistent with their gender identity.

Now, Washington is among the first states in the nation to put the question of transgender participation in school sports directly before voters, an issue that has largely been decided through legislation elsewhere.

I-638 only applies to transgen-

See > ATHLETES, A5

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