

Christian Coalition of Washington

Educating and Activating Christians for Social, Political, and Spiritual Action

November 2018

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When the Church Ignores the Public Sector

Electing godly leaders requires much more than just filling out a ballot

but what can one man do to settle all your quarrels and problems? So choose some men from each tribe who are wise, experienced, and understanding, and I will appoint them as your leaders.' --Deut 1:12, 13

It didn't turn out to be the full-on *BLUE TSUNAMI* Democrats had been hoping for. But, considering they performed well enough to wrestle back control of the U.S. House of Representatives, the *Ds* are shedding no tears. Ms. Pelosi, with help from several new socialist-leaning freshman, should be able to bottleneck much of what Trump people have in the hopper.

But, way out West, the *Ds* scored much better on November 6. In the "Evergreen State" legislative races, Democrats increased their control of the House from 50-48 to 57-41, a hefty seven seat pick up. As for the Senate, Democrats captured three new seats to give them a comfortable 29-20 command control—and assurance that whatever Gov Jay Inslee wants, Gov Jay Inslee will get.

For those who pay attention to numbers, there are curious new trends that are worrisome.

First up, eight-of-the-ten seats that flipped from Republican-to-DEMOCRAT, had been held by professing Christians who are *not ashamed of the gospel* (Romans 1:16). They have now been replaced by new members who, to say the least, espouse a radically different worldview.

Among several races still in the recount stage but leaning Republican-incumbent, two are in usually conservative Whatcom County. Rep. Luanne Van Werven (R-Lynden) leads her opponent by a slender 80 votes out-of-some 72,404 ballots examined thus far.

As for Sen. Doug Erickson in the same district, it appears he too will retain his seat, but with the an even narrower margin of "victory." Doug currently holds a razor thin 46 vote lead in a region known to have more community churches per-capita than perhaps anywhere else in the U.S.

At the same time local Republicans are holding their breath in some of the closest contests in years, Democrats are racking up some of the **LARGEST WINNING MARGINS EVER RECORDED**.

In 35 legislative contests where winners received 60-to-69 percent of the vote, 22 are Democrats. In winning contests scoring 70-79 percent of the vote total, six-of-seven are Democrats. And, eight races where the winner received 80-90 percent of the votes, ALL eight are Democrats.

Statistically speaking, the motherlode of Democrat turnout is always mined in legislative district 43, which includes the Seattle neighborhoods of Belltown, First Hill, Capitol Hill, Eastlake, Madison Valley, Madison Park, Montlake, University District, Ravenna, Wallingford, Fremont and Phinney Ridge, where there is virtually never a competitive election contest.

The epicenter of district 43 just happens to be the 634-acre University of Washington campus,

home to some 32,000 undergrad students. One of their representative is Frank Chopp, a 65-year-old Husky alum, who started his career (like former U.S. President Barack Obama) as a “Community Organizer.” In 1995 he was elected to the House of Representatives, and in 1999 became Speaker of the House. Judging by his extraordinary capture of more than 89 percent of the vote in his latest contest, it appears Chopp will remain at his post in Olympia as long as he wishes, or until he is carried out, boots first.

But, unbelievably, there were two more Democrats on election day (also in district 43) that turned in even higher approval numbers than Chopp. Sen. Jamie Pederson, who served in the House in years past, has been a longtime leading advocate on behalf of the *lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-queer* (LGBTQ) movement. He easily dispatched his latest political challenger, capturing 90.5% of his district’s votes.

And, rounding out the MIGHTY 43RD, is Nicole Macri, first elected to the State House of Representatives in 2016. According to her resume’ she is a longtime ‘fair and affordable housing’ advocate for the homeless. Macri garnered a mind-numbing **91.13%** of her district’s votes—nearly ten times her hapless GOP rival. No doubt her personal same-sex practices were a campaign plus in the 43rd district and will continue to add much powder to the explosive *LGBTQ* legislative caucus in Olympia.

In early January when the new legislative session begins, Rep. Van Werven who received the endorsement of 36,193 voters in rural Whatcom County, will sit a few desks away from “downtown” Nicole Macri with 75,920 votes—more than double Van Werven’s numbers. While neither will have more than one vote to spend on each issue, this scenario should concern any and all who hold biblical values.

To understand what is happening in our voting precincts, one cannot dismiss the conclusions of three major polling firms, including *Gallup, Pew, and Barna*. They report that the number of voters with a biblical worldview is in sharp decline.

George Barna notes that from 1991 through 2005, an average of 40% of the adult population possessed a “born-again” worldview. However, as of 2017, surveys indicate “that just 31% of adults are born-again.”¹ Barna further adds that born-again adults are much less common in the West (24%), but we think even that number, in all reality, is likely inflated.

It is true that voters 55 and older constitute the largest voting bloc—and they trend conservative. But, the next largest demographic, voters now in their 30s, will soon be in command. And, pollsters assure us their religious and political leanings are vastly different.

Whether true in our particular family circles or not, it seems we should set aside time to review our current ways and means. For instance, do core biblical principles rate even a brief discussion these days around the dinner table, in our schools, workplace, and governing institutions? How about church? Are parents and children segregated during Sunday services so that one is not fully engaged with the other? Are we more careful these days to not offend, rather than fulfill our universal calling to “train up,” and “make disciples?”

Seriously, we can and must do better.

No, we don’t like to talk to our younger audiences about the many uncomfortable (often sinful) practices that our postmodern culture is engaging in these days. But the GREAT COMMISSION is not a spectator sport. There is no escape clause for “followers” of Jesus who prefer to go-along in order to get-along with the local culture.

On that day, we will each give an accounting to the ONE, who Himself is, “the rock of offence!” (1Peter 2:8).

Rick Forcier

¹ georgebarna.com/research-flow/2017/11/30/survey-christians-are-not-spreading-the-gospel