

Turnout: Projections show less than half of those registered did vote

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 "We're going to keep the Senate, we're going to keep the House," Dole said.

Turnout declined in some states, and exit polls suggested less than half the American electorate voted. Voter News Service projected 49 percent of the voting-age population cast ballots, which would be the lowest voter turnout since 1924. These surveys showed optimism about the economy propelled Clinton to victory even as voters shared many of Dole's reservations about the president's integrity.

There were 34 Senate races on the ballot. Republicans won 19 of those to hold their majority and led for two more. Democrats won 13. If those numbers held up, Republican ranks would grow by two seats to 55.

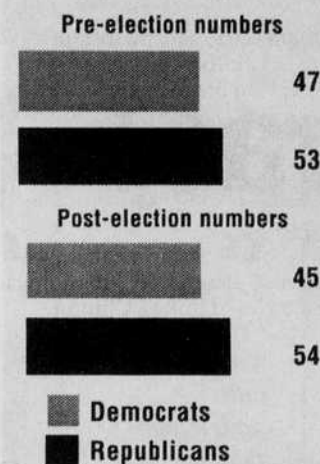
Republicans entered the election with 236 House seats. They won 206 on Tuesday and were leading for 22 more — enough for a slim majority. Democrats won 182 seats and led for 23 more.

Clinton was already weighing Cabinet changes as he plotted a second-term agenda and looked for his place in history. He promised to continue peacemaking efforts in the Middle East, Bosnia and Northern Ireland and to push for campaign finance reform.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott said Republicans were willing to work with Clinton on balancing the budget and tax cuts for families — but sounded skeptical Clinton would follow through on his

SENATE SEAT NUMBERS

While Clinton won the presidential election, Republicans maintain majority in the Senate and the House.



SOURCE: CBS news reports as of midnight

MATT GARTON/Emerald

election year conservative conversion.

"He talks about how the era of big government is over," Lott told The Associated Press. "We'd like to help him keep his word on that, keep the government smaller and smarter." In a sobering note for Clinton, Lott promised tough investigations of questionable Democratic fund-raising from foreign interests.

Dole's concession was also a farewell of sorts, his last speech as a candidate. It ended a remarkable political career that included 35

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Tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do.

— Bob Dole
 GOP Presidential Nominee

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years in Congress and a record 12 years as the Senate Republican leader. "Tomorrow will be the first time in my life I don't have anything to do," Dole said.

Reform Party candidate Ross Perot was a distant third everywhere and well below the 19 percent he won in 1992. He conceded defeat but was not ready to fade into the shadows. "We going to have to stand at the gate and keep the pressure on and we will," Perot said in Texas, looking ahead perhaps to 2000.

Victories in 30 states and the District of Columbia gave Clinton 375 electoral votes — more than the 370 he claimed in defeating George Bush. An electoral landslide assured, Clinton had one last hope for the night: that Perot's candidacy would not cost him a majority of the popular vote.

Republicans hoped for a milestone of their own: Not since 1930 has the GOP won both chambers of Congress in consecutive elections.

Ironically, and perhaps fittingly, it was a victory by Republican Tim Hutchinson in Clinton's Arkansas that assured the GOP of keeping its Senate majority. One incumbent Republican senator lost: Larry Pressler of South Dakota, who lost to Democratic Rep. Tim Johnson.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich celebrated his own reelection in Georgia and said he was looking ahead to running the House in the new year.

The breadth of Clinton's victory was sobering news to Republicans who once held an Electoral College advantage based on strength in the South, Plains and Mountain West.

Clinton began the big night by becoming the first Democrat to win Florida in 20 years and hours later got the Pacific West sweep that guaranteed an electoral landslide.

Dole monitored the results from his Watergate apartment before calling Clinton to offer congratulations. He then headed to a Republican gathering. Ohio delivered a telling early blow to Dole's upset hopes: no Republican has ever won the White House without that state.

Clinton went on to an industrial belt sweep, winning New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Illinois. Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota added to Clinton's Midwest rout. The border states of Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, home state of Vice President Al Gore, also were in the Democratic col-

umn, as was Clinton's Arkansas. Arizona and New Mexico brought good news from the Southwest; Louisiana from the South.

Clinton carried the six New England states and rolled through New York, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. California, Oregon and Washington continued the rout.

Dole and Jack Kemp, on the other hand, carried 14 states with a combined 129 electoral votes. Dole's wins came in North Dakota, Oklahoma, Indiana, Alabama, Wyoming, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Idaho, Virginia, South Carolina and his native Kansas — all states carried by George Bush against Clinton in 1992.

Republicans began the evening with a 53-47 Senate majority and won two seats from retiring Democrats. Atty. Gen. Jeff Sessions took the Alabama seat of Howell Heflin. And Chuck Hagel captured the seat of James Exon in Nebraska.

Republicans held open seats in Wyoming, Colorado and two in Kansas. Democrats did the same in Rhode Island, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana and New Jersey. The size of the Republican majority hinged on competitive open seat races in Oregon and Maine.

Democratic incumbents won new terms in Michigan, West Virginia, Minnesota, Montana and Delaware. Republican senators won reelection in Alaska, Texas, New Mexico, Mississippi, Virginia and Oklahoma.

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