

...Election results: In Oregon, labor wins across the state

(From Page 1)

Obama carried Oregon 54 percent to 42.5 percent, and Washington 55.9 percent to 41.7 percent. Voter turnout in Oregon reached 81 percent. In Washington, 73.7 percent of registered voters cast ballots.

"This election was about a choice between two very different visions for our nation," Trumka told a Nov. 7 post-election press conference. "One vision rewards hard work and the people who do it, while the other benefits only those at the top. Voters rejected Romney economics.

"They made clear they want solutions that respect hard work, strengthen the middle class, invest in America and build upon working together instead of driving people apart."

U.S. SENATE

In several **U.S. Senate** races where Republican, corporate, and Super PAC cash looked like it would make the difference, union members' get-out-the-vote activism and votes helped push union-endorsed candidates to victory. The election left the new Senate with 53 Democrats, a gain of two; plus two independents who are expected to caucus with the Democrats.

"We said we'd defend all of our seats and would put half of their seats in play," said Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), chairwoman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "No one believed me, but we did just that."

Major victories included Elizabeth Warren's defeat of Sen. Scott Brown, who had won a partial term in Massa-



Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer (second from right) celebrates a victorious election night with members of Iron Workers Local 29. From left they are Jose Alvarez, Emmanuel Sanchez, John Larrison, Robert Camarillo. The men volunteered to phone bank and leaflet job sites for union-endorsed candidates and ballot measures throughout the election campaign. "It feels great," Larrison said, knowing that their volunteer efforts helped make a difference.

chusetts after the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy. Tim Kaine beat George Allen in Virginia; Rep. Tammy Baldwin overcame Tommy Thompson in Wisconsin; Sen. Jon Tester defeated challenger Rep. Denny Rehberg in Montana; Sen. Sherrod Brown won over Josh Mandel in Ohio; and Maria Cantwell won easily in Washington.

Oregon U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley, whose term expires in two years, pointed out that seven of the Demo-

cratic senators-elect are filibuster reformers. "I have great hope that we took a great step toward reforming the filibuster," Merkley said. "Thanks to your huge effort, we have a stronger team fighting for a more fair, inclusive, tolerant, forward-looking society, where everyone has a shot to go as far as their talents and hard work take them."

U.S. HOUSE

And though Democrats strengthened their hold on the Senate, they failed to recapture the majority in the **House of Representatives**, which they lost two years ago. Seven races were still undecided at press time, with Democrats leading in six. If those hold, Democrats will pick up 11 seats, putting the House total for next term at 201 Democrats and 234 Republicans.

Oregon returned all its incumbent Democrats by wide margins. They are Suzanne Bonamici, Earl Blumenauer, Kurt Schrader, and Peter DeFazio. Republican Greg Walden, who was endorsed by the Oregon State Building and Construction Trades Council, also was re-elected.

Washington State Labor Council (WSLC) President Jeff Johnson said his state's Congressional delegation got stronger with the addition of three new "labor champions": Suzan DelBene, Derek Kilmer, and Denny Heck. "Labor's good friends Jim McDermott, Rick Larsen, and Adam Smith also won handily," he said.

OREGON

In Oregon, all AFL-CIO-endorsed candidates in **statewide races** won by wide margins, including incumbent labor commissioner Brad Avakian, treasurer Ted Wheeler, secretary of state Kate Brown, and attorney general Ellen Rosenblum. Jim Egan was elected to the Court of Appeals and Richard Baldwin defeated Nena Cook for Oregon Supreme Court.

On **statewide ballot measures**, labor-backed Measure 85, a reform of Oregon's corporate kicker tax, passed by a wide margin. Labor also helped reject Measure 84, an attempt by Republicans to phase out inheritance taxes on large estates, and all taxes on intra-family property transfers. Less than 3 percent of estates are affected by

the estate tax, which applies only to estates worth more than \$1 million.

Democrats held onto their 16-14 majority in the **Oregon Senate**, with all of the AFL-CIO's endorsed candidates — several of them union members — victorious. Winners were Arnie Roblan in Dist. 5; Mark Hass in Dist. 14; Elizabeth Stemer Hayward in Dist. 17; Diane Rosenbaum in Dist. 21; Chip Shields in Dist. 22; Jackie Dingfelder in Dist. 23; and Laurie Monnes Anderson in Dist. 25. Rosenbaum has been a longtime active member of Communications Workers of America Local 7901; Roblan is a former teacher and member of the Oregon Education Association (OEA); Hass was a long-time member of the American Federation of Television & Radio Artists; Monnes Anderson is a retired member of the Oregon Nurses Association; and Shields is a member of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT).

In the **Oregon House**, AFL-CIO-backed candidates won 87 percent of the races in unofficial results. If all the numbers hold, Democrats will carry a 34-26 majority into the 2013 legislative session. (In the last session the House was split 30-30.)

Winners were Peter Buckley in Dist. 5; union Carpenter Paul Holvey in Dist. 8; Caddy McKeown in Dist. 9; David Gomberg in Dist. 10; Phil Barnhart in Dist. 11; John Lively in Dist. 12; former Service Employees International Union member Nancy Nathanson in Dist. 13; Val Hoyle in Dist. 14; Sara Gelser in Dist. 16; Brian Clem in Dist. 21; former OEA member Betty Komp in Dist. 22; Tobias Read in Dist. 27; former Portland Police Association (PPA) president Jeff Barker in Dist. 28; Ben Unger in Dist. 29; Joe Gallegos in Dist. 30; United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 555 rep Brad Witt in Dist. 31; Chris Harker in Dist. 34; former OEA member Margaret Doherty in Dist. 35; Jennifer Williamson in Dist. 36; Chris Garrett in Dist. 38; Brent Barton in Dist. 40; Carolyn Tomei, a one-time member of AFT, in Dist. 41; Jules Bailey in Dist. 42; Lew Frederick in Dist. 43; Tina Kotek in Dist. 44; former AFT Local 2277 president Michael Dembrow in Dist. 45; Alissa Keny-Guyer in Dist. 46; Jessica Vega Pederson in Dist. 47; retired OEA member Jeff Reardon in Dist. 48; Chris Gorsek, a member of the OEA and a past member of the PPA and UFCW Local 555, in Dist. 49; Fire Fighters union member Greg Matthews in Dist. 50; Shemia Fagan in Dist. 51; and Bob Jensen in Dist. 58.

The Oregon AFL-CIO's election program turned out union members to knock on over 115,000 doors, make over 315,000 phone calls, and hand out thousands of fliers to co-workers at jobsites. Additionally, thousands of water cooler conversations helped spread information about candidates' records on the economy, and over

(Turn to Page 8)



Benefit Plan Administrators, Inc.

Small enough to know you. BIG ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU.



Full service third party administrator. Serving Taft-Hartley Trusts since 1954.

1220 SW Morrison Street, Suite 300
Portland, OR 97205

Phone 503.224.0048

Fax 503.228.0149

www.aibpa.com

