

Midterm drama falls in Oregon, rises elsewhere

STORIES BY IAN VAN ORDEN
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR

Election night has passed, though in some areas around the country, midterm drama continues. Here in Oregon, however, the winners have already been decided. In the race for the Oregon's representatives in the U.S. House, there will be no changing of hands come January. Across all five districts found in Oregon the incumbent representatives won.

The closest of these races was Oregon's 5th Congressional District, which includes Oregon City. The race saw Kurt Schrader, the democratic incumbent, challenged by Mark Callahan, a Republican who has sought election in a number of different positions around Oregon and the rest of the country. The voters clearly favored Schrader, though, granting him a 55 percent lead over Callahan's 42 percent according to results from the Associated Press.

The race for governor was also decided, with Kate Brown winning reelection to the position. The race was perhaps closer than some would have imagined, though, with Brown winning 49.9 percent to challenger Knute Beuhler's 43.8 percent. The race clearly highlighted the split in Oregon's politics, with only three counties clearly favoring Brown, and with Brown winning only seven of the 36 counties within the state. The largest divide was found in Multnomah County, which includes Portland, and is the state's most populous county. There, Brown won with a 73.9 percent of the vote.

Of the five ballot measures that were up for a vote on election night, only one managed to accrue enough votes to pass. Oregon Measure 102, which sought to remove the requirement that affordable housing funded by state money had to be owned by the government, was passed by Oregon voters 56.69 percent to 43.31 percent.

Of the other measures, only one could be considered a close vote. Oregon Measure 103, which sought to ban taxes on groceries, was voted down 57.38 percent to 42.62 percent.

Both of Oregon's more controversial measures were also voted down, including the attempt to repeal the longstanding sanctuary state law, and the attempt to ban public funds from being used to fund abortions within the state.

Though Oregon's elections have settled, elsewhere in the country the fight still rages on. Florida, which previously saw the bitter dispute between George W. Bush and Al Gore in the 2000 presidential election, once again finds itself in conflict, as a recount is called for the U.S. Senate race between Governor Rick Scott and Democratic incumbent Bill Nelson. Several irregularities in the race have led both Scott and President Donald Trump to suggest that there might be voter fraud taking place, specifically focusing on two of the state's counties where the irregularities have been the most pronounced.

The Florida state governor's race has also found itself in a conflicted position. Though he had previously conceded on election night, Democrat Andrew Gillum has since rescinded the concession, instead stating that every vote should be counted before the decision is made. Due to the race falling within a half percent split, Florida state law requires a machine recount to be held. Several other races also continue, including the Georgia gubernatorial race, which sees Republican Secretary of State Brian Kemp pitted against Democrat Stacey Abrams. Though Kemp has already declared his victory, Abrams continues to dispute it and recently filed a lawsuit to stop the count from being finalized until every



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vote had been counted. Though Kemp currently holds a significant lead of nearly 60,000 votes, if he falls below the 50 percent margin, state law forces the election to move to a runoff. In the runoff, only Kemp and Abrams would participate, with Abrams hoping that she would pick up enough votes from the third-party contestants to push her over the edge.

Though this eventuality remains unlikely, Abrams has proven unwilling to concede until the bitter end. These elections, as well as the senate race in Arizona, have future implications for the 2020 Presidential race. If Republicans retain control in some of these battleground states, it makes the prospect of reelection for President Trump significantly more likely.

Until the dust settles, though, we can only wait and see.



@TheRealStanLee Twitter

STAN LEE LEAVES BEHIND LEGACY OF HEROES AND VILLAINS

On Nov. 12, Stanley Martin Lieber, the comic book icon popularly known as Stan Lee, passed away. Over the last year, Lee had been battling pneumonia and had been hospitalized earlier this year due to the condition.

Along with artist Jack Kirby, Lee created some of the most iconic superheroes in history. Beginning with the superhero team Fantastic Four, Lee would go on to co-create the Hulk, Iron Man, Thor, the X-Men, Daredevil and Doctor Strange.

Not the least of his creations is

Spider-Man, a hero that would go on to become Marvel's most successful superhero.

In recent years, Lee became known for his frequent cameos in the various movies based on Marvel works. From "The Avengers" to "Venom," Lee appeared in nearly every modern Marvel movie, including every single entry in the Marvel Cinematic Universe to date.

Throughout his life, Lee received a number of awards. He was one of the first to receive the Inkpot Award, which sought to commemorate those

who had impacted comics, animation, and science fiction positively, as well as the Life Career Award from the Saturn Awards.

Though the concept of superheroes existed before Lee, it's hard to deny that he did not have an immense impact on the world of comics. Beyond creating many of the heroes found in the world of comics today, his influence helped shape how the world would see both superheroes and comics. Lee's influence will be sorely missed.

"Excelsior!"