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WSTA ELECTION UPDATE



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[WSTA Election Update November 7, 2018](#)

[Both Wisconsin governor's race and attorney general race too close to call](#)

Republican Gov. Scott Walker and Democratic challenger Tony Evers were locked in a tight race, with the outcome so close that the threat of a recount loomed. With 98.7 percent of precincts reporting, the two had about 49 percent each as of 12:20 p.m. If that kind of margin persists, both sides expect a recount that could take weeks. Clerks around the state were counting the last votes, including in Milwaukee County, where about 50,000 ballots remained to be counted. The race for attorney general was also tight, with Republican incumbent Brad Schimel holding a narrow lead over Democratic challenger Josh Kaul. A recount appeared possible in that race, too. A candidate who loses by 1 percent or less can demand a recount under a law Walker signed last year. Taxpayers pick up the cost if the loss is within 0.25 percent; the losing candidate would have to pay if the margin is wider than that.

[Republicans poised to keep majorities in both houses of State Legislature](#)

Republicans were poised to maintain control of both houses of the state Legislature with final results in several races still pending. With Republicans holding an 18-15 majority in the Senate headed into Tuesday, Dems needed to hold onto the 1st CD to have any hopes of flipping the chamber. But Dem Sen. Caleb Frostman, who won the seat in a June special election, conceded to GOP Rep. Andre Jacque, of De Pere, late Tuesday. Dems targeted several other seats, but Republicans had leads in the three that were considered most competitive. Unless final returns flip one of those margins, Republicans would come back with a 19-14 majority in January. In the Assembly, Republicans went into Tuesday with a 64-35 majority and only a handful of races in GOP-held seats ended up being close. In the close Assembly contests, the Republican candidates were all ahead at the end of the night. If those margins hold, the Assembly will continue with the 64-35 GOP control in January 2019.

[Baldwin defeats Vukmir in Wisconsin Senate race](#)

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) trounced Republican Leah Vukmir in Wisconsin's Senate race on Tuesday, clearing her way to a second-term in the chamber. Baldwin's win is welcome news for Democrats, who have touted their strength in Midwestern states that President Trump won in 2016, including Wisconsin. Throughout her general election campaign, Baldwin appeared well positioned to win another term in the Senate. She consistently led in public polls and outraised Vukmir, a state senator, by a wide margin. But Vukmir also received help from the Republican Party's leader: President Trump himself. The president boosted Vukmir and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker during a rally late last month.

[Bryan Steil Holds Ryan's Wisconsin House Seat for Republicans](#)

Republican Bryan Steil defeated Democrat Randy Bryce in the race for retiring Speaker Paul Ryan's seat, the Associated Press projected. Steil, an attorney, was a former aide to Ryan and the speaker's favored candidate in the primary. Bryce entered the race before Ryan announced in April he would retire, and gained national attention for a series of political ads highlighting his background as an iron worker.

[GOP holds US Senate, Democrats on track to take US House](#)

Democrats were on track to seize control of the House and cut into Republican-held governorships on Tuesday, while Republican victories in the Senate appeared likely to stanch a broader Democratic wave. Initial results late Tuesday suggested a midterm repudiation of President Donald Trump and the conservative, anti-immigration agenda he ushered into Washington two years ago, likely accelerating the Democratic Party's reach into America's critical suburbs on the cusp of the 2020 presidential campaign.

[Networks declare Democrats will capture the House of Representatives](#)

Democrats captured the House on Tuesday as Americans stampeded to the polls for a historic midterm that was as much a referendum on President Trump's policies and behavior as it was about control of Congress. Fox News declared at 9:45 p.m. that Democrats had gained at least 23 seats in the lower chamber, giving Democrats control of the House for the first time since 2010.