

Lake Research Partners (LRP) would like to congratulate our winning candidates and clients in this week's exciting and important elections. The wins this week – from coast to coast – can be a telling sign for next year if progressives keep working hard and harness the new-found energy from this fall.

In Virginia, LRP polled for three winning Senate candidates, and did our part to keep the Senate blue. Senator Janet Howell was reelected with 60% of the vote as was Senator John Edwards with 56% of the vote. Arlington County Council Member Barbara Favola was sent to the Senate with 58% of the vote. We want to thank the consultant teams that helped communicate the winning message. With Howell, credit goes to Nick Kowalski (manager), Liz Chadderdon and Karen Defilippi (The Chadderdon Group, direct mail), Bryan Masters and Tammy Palmer (Tyson Phones), and the Nesbitt Group for research. The Edwards team included manager Moulin Desai, David Heller of Main Street Communications for television and radio, Rich Savage for direct mail, and Hayley Rumback for opposition research. Favola, who came off a thrilling primary victory, was aided by the managing team of Adam Scott and Mary Lawson, Kevin Mack and LeAnna DiNardo with the Mack|Crounse Group direct mail firm, Bob Corn on phones, Nesbitt Research, and Mark Putnam on television. Joshua Ulibarri and Mark Mehringer led the Virginia effort for LRP.

In Houston, the LRP Team also went undefeated. We reelected Mayor Annise Parker, helping her become the first out-lesbian to win reelection to governing a major city (after helping her become the first to win a major-city mayorship in 2009). Parker's team was led by manager Ward Curtin, strategists (and mail team) Grant Martin and Eric Jaye with Storefront Political Media, and Cynthia Miller and Dean Rindy of Rindy, Miller, Garcia Media. We also helped elect Ellen Cohen to the city council from newly created District C. Cohen won with 54% of the vote and returns to a position of leadership after previously serving in the state legislature. Cohen's team was led by her managers Brooke Boyett and Dave Bonem, the mail team of Natalie LeBlanc and Beth Hernandez from The Pivot Group, and strategist Celinda Provost. Celinda Lake, Joshua Ulibarri, and Mark Mehringer led the efforts in Houston.

LRP conducted independent expenditure polling in the successful recall election of Arizona State Senate President Russell Pearce. It was the first time a state senate president has ever been recalled. Pearce was defeated and took only 45% of the vote. We worked with Jeff Robinson and David Donnelly of Public Campaign Action Fund's Campaign Money Watch. Celinda Lake and Joshua Ulibarri worked closely on this win.

LRP was also successful in Erie, New York where we helped Democrat Mark Poloncarz win his race for County Executive. Poloncarz won with 53% of the vote. Poloncarz, raised from a blue-collar family in Lackawanna, won on a message of cleaning up fraud and waste. He becomes the second Democrat to hold the position in its 51-year history. LRP worked with campaign manager Jennifer Hibit, labor organizations such as AFSCME, and hard-working volunteers. David Mermin led LRP efforts in working with the unions in this contest.

LRP is also proud to have helped Columbus, Ohio Mayor Mike Coleman in his successful reelection campaign. Our research helped Coleman overcome a poisonous political atmosphere by focusing on Coleman's record of accomplishments, especially on public safety and economic growth, as well as his vision for a better Columbus. Ultimately, Coleman won with 69% of the vote. Congratulations to Mayor Coleman and his expert campaign team of Greg Haas and Lee Roberts on winning a 4th term. Bob Meadow and Daniel Gotoff led these efforts for LRP.

We would like to send a late-breaking congratulations to our client Jane Kleeb, her team at Bold Nebraska, and other progressive groups who worked to reroute and delay the Keystone XL pipeline. President Obama today announced a delay in deciding its route, which many analysts think will stop the pipeline for good. Joshua and Celinda and the entire firm is proud of our work on this subject

As a last note we would like to congratulate our friends in Mississippi, Maine, and Ohio on their great victories last night. Congratulations to our team and to all winning progressives! We are proud to have worked with these candidates and look forward to many more wins next year!