



## NAPUS ELECTION NIGHT BLOG

<http://napuselection2008.blogspot.com/>

November 4  
6:30 PM EST - ?

### Key Senate Races, With Poll Closing Times (incumbent in italics)

7:00 PM EST

GA Martin (D) vs.  
*Chambliss* (R)  
KY Lunsford (D) vs.  
*McConnell* (R)  
VA Warner (D) vs.  
*Gilmore* (R)

8:00 PM EST

ME Allen (D) vs.  
*Collins* (R)  
MS Musgrove vs.  
*Wicker* (R)  
NH Shaheen (D) vs.  
*Sununu* (R)

8:30 PM EST

NC Hagan (D) vs. *Dole* (R)

9:00 PM EST

CO Udall (D) vs.  
*Schaffer* (R)  
LA Landrieu vs.  
*Kennedy* (R)  
MN Franken (D) vs.  
*Coleman* (R)  
NM Udall (D) vs.  
*Pearce* (R)

10:00 PM EST

OR Merkley (D) vs.  
*Smith* (R)

1:00 AM EST (11/5)

AK Begich (D) vs.  
*Stevens* (R)

## What's At Stake in 2008?

Political pundits predict that Election Day voter turnout will reach epic levels. However, it remains to be seen how successful Obama's prospectively-lauded get-out-the-vote operation will be on Tuesday. Undoubtedly, traditional Democratic voters will turnout in high numbers. However, the 2004 general election aptly demonstrated that even a soaring Democratic turnout in Ohio could not offset a well-oiled GOP ground operation.

The National Democratic Party's Election Day program has strived to motivate newly registered voters – **in battleground states** (e.g., Colorado, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Virginia) – to actually cast their votes. 46 million new voters have registered since the 2004 election, a 32% increase; however, high Democratic turnout in "blue" states like Maryland, Illinois, New Jersey, and Oregon will not be pivotal in the Presidential outcome. Those states are already firmly in Obama's grasp. However, high Democratic turnout in those states may very well be decisive in a large number of competitive House and Senate races. An interesting footnote to voter turnout is that early and absentee voting is astonishing. For example, Ohio a key battleground state, has experienced a 134% increase in early and absentee voting, as compared to 2004. Nationwide, reports are that 18.5 million such votes have been cast, with millions still in the pipeline.

Besides the Presidential returns, which everyone can watch on their station of choice, NAPUS will be attentive to particular Senate races. There are two numbers upon which NAPUS will concentrate – 1 and 10. The Democrats presently enjoy a 51-49 majority. Since the Senate Democrats are less than pleased with Sen. Lieberman (CT-I), they may strip him of the Chairmanship of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, compelling him to caucus with the GOP. This would leave a 50-50 Senate split. Under this scenario, if McCain wins, V.P. Palin could be the deciding vote. Also, under a McCain Administration, we could anticipate a Cabinet post for Lieberman. In this case, the CT GOP Governor would fill the vacancy. Consequently, under all circumstances, the Democrats need a net gain of 1-seat to retain control of the Senate. A net gain of 10 Democratic seats would yield a 60-40 majority. Under Senate rules, 60 is the magic number to end debate (i.e. filibuster), and bring a bill or Presidential nominee to a vote. Should the Democrats achieve this magical number, they would essentially have a filibuster-proof majority, smoothing the way for their legislative agenda. It is still unclear whether the Democrats, even with a 2006-type electoral tsunami, can get to 60. Current polling and the charged political environment indicate that 11 GOP seats are nominally at risk; however, a 5-8 seat Democratic pick-up is far more likely.

To get real time Congressional returns on Election Night, link with the NAPUS Government Relation Department at <http://napuselection2008.blogspot.com/>.

## National Press Club Roundtable on “Do Not Mail”

On Thursday, NAPUS attended a roundtable discussion with representatives from approximately 45 organizations, including the Postal Service, major mailers, and environmental interests. Pitney Bowes and the World Environment Center co-sponsored the event, which took place at the National Press Club, in Washington, DC.

The presentations focused on the “greening of the mail”, and how the mail industry, in collaboration with Postal Service, can limit the environmental impact of its activities. Tidbits picked up from the meeting include:

- 53% of advertising involve direct mail, accounting for \$2 trillion in sales
- 8.4 million American jobs rely on direct mail industry
- The direct marketing industry’s mailing preference initiative has averted 932 million pieces of unwanted pieces of mail
- Discarded mail contributes only 2% of solid waste to public landfills
- Production and disposal of mail contributes only .6% of carbon dioxide emissions
- A household’s annual mail carbon footprint equates to operating a coffeemaker for one hour per day for a year

USPS Vice President of Sustainability Samuel Pulcrano outlined the agency’s activities to encourage mail recycling and reduce the USPS’ impact on the environment. During a short question period, Postal Regulatory Commission Vice Chairman Nanci Langley suggested that USPS consider issuing a new “green” stamp, possibly “a forever stamp”, publicizing the USPS’ pro-environmental efforts. Pitney Bowes Vice President of Environmental Health and Safety Paul Robbertz spoke about new research into mail’s carbon footprint and alluded to the impact that the internet has on the environment.

Information gleaned from this meeting will be used in educating state legislatures about problems with bills to enact do not mail measures.

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## USPS-Sponsored Study Estimates Cost of Universal Service Obligation

As part of its submission to the Postal Regulatory Commission’s Universal Service Obligation (USO) study, the USPS submitted an IBM report on the USO. In part, the document asserted that eliminating Saturday mail deliveries would yield savings of \$3.5 billion annually, implementing volume-dependent delivery days in certain zip codes would save \$3.7 billion, closing the smallest 18,574 post offices would save \$1.4 billion, and closing post offices without delivery functions would save about \$590 million. On the other side of the ledger, eliminating the mailbox monopoly, while keeping the Private Express Statutes in place, would cost the USPS \$1.5-\$2.6 billion. It does not appear that the IBM Study is a prescription for gutting the USO, rather it seems to be an attempt to quantify what the obligation costs. Nonetheless, NAPUS will continue to communicate its concern about attempts to undermine the USO, including post office closures and consolidations, to the PRC and to Congress.

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