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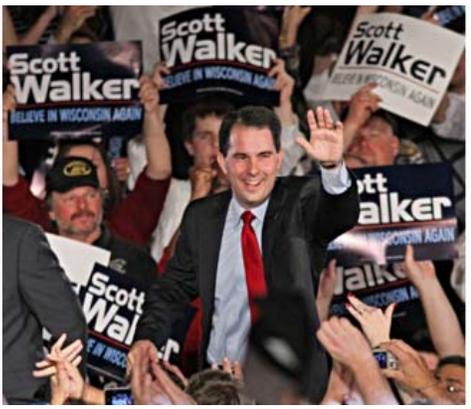
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ELECTION 2010 | ANALYSIS

River of red buries the blue

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(Left) Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker takes the stage to claim the governor's race for the Republicans on Tuesday at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. (Right) Sen.-elect Ron Johnson celebrates at the EAA AirVenture Museum in Oshkosh.

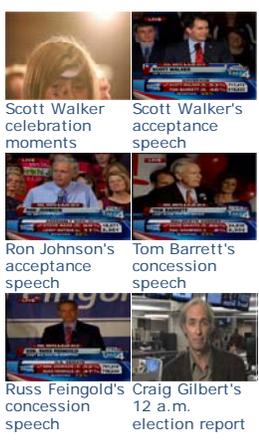
Wisconsin only state where Democrats lost governor, Senate seat, Legislature

By Craig Gilbert of the Journal Sentinel

print e-mail

Nov. 3, 2010 | (215) COMMENTS

Election Day Video



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On a night when America turned from blue to red, few states swung harder than Wisconsin, where Republicans experienced their greatest electoral gains in decades, picking up a governor, Democrat Russ Feingold's U.S. Senate seat, both state legislative chambers and two U.S. House seats.

A battleground state that Barack Obama dominated two years ago dealt him and his party a sharp political rebuke Tuesday, as Democrats lost ground with one key voting group after another - independents, blue-collar whites, suburbanites.

Nationally, the GOP recaptured the U.S. House and whittled away at the Democrats' big Senate majority, transforming both the balance of power in Washington and the electoral map heading into the 2012 election for president.

Here in Wisconsin, Republicans gained a governor and U.S. senator in the same election for the first time since 1938. This was the only state in the country where Democrats lost the governorship, a Senate seat and an entire legislature.

Wisconsin has now had two back-to-back elections in which each party won historically large victories - a sign of the volatility of the times, of the economic turmoil of the region, and of a swing electorate that neither side can take for granted.

Two years ago, Democrats achieved their biggest presidential win in Wisconsin since 1964. Obama carried more counties in Wisconsin than any other state, painting the state blue from city to suburb to countryside.

This year, Republicans had their best midterm election in 72 years.

Was this simply another "no" vote against the party in power, much like rejection of Republicans in 2006 and 2008?

Or were voters making a more conservative statement about government overreach?

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