Kerry reelected to Senate; Voters defeat Question 3

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television stations should be required to offer free air time to candidates for office.

Question 2, a proposal to severely limit the state's ability to use outside consultants, and Question 3 were the only initiatives defeated.

In the race for one of Massachusetts' US Senate seats, Democratic incumbent John F. Kerry defeated challenger Jim Bopp by a vote of 1,319,375 (57 percent) to 992,875 (43 percent). The campaign was marked by strong negative advertising and a lack of focus on substantive issues, many observers agreed.

National election results

Across the nation, voters in 14 states elected governors of a different party affiliation. Seven governors changed from Republican to Democrat, five from Democrat to Republican, and two to independent.

Voters in Alaska and Connecticut elected independent candidates to those states' chief executive positions. Lowell P. Weicker Jr. became the first independent governor of Connecticut since 1861. Walter J. Hickel, Alaska's governor-elect, had previously been governor of the state as a Republican from 1966 to 1968.

Democrat Ann Richards was elected governor of Texas in an extremely close race. Her margin of victory was roughly 100,000 votes out of 3.7 million cast.

In another significant race, Republican Jesse A. Helms retained his New Jersey seat against a little-known challenger, Christine T. Whitman. Bradley outspent his opponent 46-1.

Overall, national voter turnout was low, with only a third of eligible voters casting a ballot. Voter turnout in Massachusetts, however, was exceptionally high.

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