

How To Detect A Democratic Wave On Election Night

With national polls trending to the Democrats and independent analysis showing a significant number of Republican seats in jeopardy, many pundits have begun using the term “wave” to predict the outcome of the midterm elections. With that in mind I offer some tips for interpreting early election returns on November 7, which will show if a wave is actually occurring.

- **6 p.m.:** Polls close in Indiana and Kentucky. Indiana has three House seats held by Republicans and Kentucky two. If Democrats sweep those seats or even take 4 out of 5, prospects look good for a wave.
- **7p.m.:** Polls close in Virginia. Look to see how the Democratic Senate candidate is performing, since this is expected to be a very close race and a MUST win for the Republicans. In addition, a hotly contested Congressional seat (held by the Republicans) in the Virginia Beach area is thought

to be a toss up. This area has a high concentration of religious conservatives; if the Republicans falls, this could mean the zealots are staying home—a very good sign for Democrats.

- **7:30 p.m.:** Polls close in Ohio. Democrats must win this Republican held Senate Seat. Ohio also has five contested House races. Look to see how Representative Deborah Pryce fares; she chairs the Republican Conference in the House, and if she loses the Foley scandal is sticking.
- **8 p.m.:** Polls close in Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and several other states. Democrats must win the Senate seats in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. And by now they should have won enough seats to take back the House. If they have not, it is going to be a long night.

Tom Schuler
District Leader

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7
CRDC headquarters @ 309 West 20th Street
will be open all day on Election Day starting at 6 a.m.
Donuts and coffee for early risers.

POLL CLOSERS ARE NEEDED!
CRDC has a long tradition of gathering election returns from our district. Volunteers are always needed to help.
If you are able to contact Tom Schuler at 917-716-4428

COME CELEBRATE
Join us at CRDC headquarters to watch the returns on Election Night and celebrate Democratic Victories throughout the nation.
(We have Cable TV)
As always, pizza and beer will be served.

GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY
NOVEMBER 16, 2006
7:00 P.M.
Location to
be Determined

Agenda:

Third in our series
on the environment

Guest Speaker is
Eric A. Goldstein,
Senior attorney and Co-director
of National Resource Defense
Council's urban program.

Upcoming CRDC Meetings

December 14: Nominations for
2007 Club Officers and Executive
Committee

January 18: Annual Meeting;
Club Elections

Democrats In Good Position To Take Control Of The House And The Senate

As Election Day approaches, prospects for a Democratic takeover of the House and Senate become more and more likely. With conditions in Iraq deteriorating daily and the Mark Foley scandal continuing front and center, independent analysts and political operatives in both parties agree that substantial Democratic gains are likely.

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Democrats In Good Position

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The current makeup of the House of Representatives is 232 Republicans to 203 Democrats. The party that controls 218 seats will hold the next majority, thereby electing the Speaker, determining committee chairs, and setting the agenda for legislation. The Democrats need just 15 seats to take back control.

The current makeup of the House of Representatives is 232 Republicans to 203 Democrats. The party that controls 218 seats will hold the next majority, thereby electing the Speaker, determining committee chairs, and setting the agenda for legislation. The Democrats need just 15 seats to take back control. To date, no Democrat is believed to be in jeopardy of losing, while Republicans are defending more than 30 incumbents. In fact, The Cook Political Report, CQ Politics and Rothenburg Political Report all put nearly 60 seats in play in their independent analysis of Congressional races—all of them are currently held by Republicans. Some of the more competitive races are occurring in Connecticut, Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Florida.

On the Senate side, the Democrats will need 6 seats to regain control. Competitive races are taking place in Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Tennessee, Missouri, Montana, and New Jersey. All but New Jersey are held by Republicans, making Democrats a good bet to pick up anywhere from four to six seats.

The prospects have never been better for a triumph we've so long thirsted for. Work hard, pray harder and see you at the victory parities!

By: Tom Schuler, District Leader

Affordable Housing + Affordable Super Market = Victory For Working Class

As part of the W. Chelsea rezoning that occurred last year, the city agreed to build an affordable housing complex for low, moderate, and middle income people on 25th Street and 9th Ave. The agreement said that roughly 110 permanent affordable units would be built, and the current parking lot for Elliot Chelsea residents would be preserved by moving it underground. The

city is about to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop this site with the aforementioned stipulations. Before this RFP is issued however, I thought the community could request that the bottom floor of this new building be used as a space for an affordable grocery store. This would be a perfect location for a Fairway, discount or cooperative supermarket (Dave Smith's idea). Many residents in London Terrace, Penn South, and Elliot Chelsea live off of fixed incomes and many of them are physically unable to travel long distances to purchase cheaper groceries. In my opinion, Gristedes prices are obscene for the quality of food they provide and the other local supermarkets charge high prices as well. So the question I pose is; what good is affordable housing if people cannot afford to live here?

Thankfully, Christine Quinn's office looked into this matter but her staff said the space is not big enough for a typical supermarket. Obviously this is not good news, but I was wondering if the space would be big enough for some sort of small wholesale grocery store or a co-operative supermarket. The Chelsea Reform Democratic club is in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss alternative grocery uses for this space. I think this is a critical issue for our community and it must be addressed and solved in one way or another.

Luke McAuliffe, CRDC Vice President

Remembering A Role Model

We are, I hope, about to celebrate a return to the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives after a 12-year absence and maybe even a return in the Senate. Just thinking of all the smirking faces that won't be there – or that won't be smirking with quite so much satisfaction – if this happens is enough to make me giggle. If we do gain the majority again, I hope our leaders are wise and use it to promote a progressive agenda. I hope they fight back sensibly against the Administration, with principle, not pique, with strong, straightforward cases, not theatrics.

One fallen Democratic hero – certainly one of my heroes – who won't be around to enjoy it if we win is former Texas Governor Ann Richards. She was a woman of integrity, passion and a few well-chosen words. In the tradition of the great Texas politicians of our party – Sam Rayburn, Lyndon Johnson and John Nance Garner, to name a few – she was afraid of

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Remembering A Role Model

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no one and she knew how to win people over with a story. But she did more than that. She worked hard to extend opportunities to people and places where they previously had been few and far between. She opened the doors of Texas government to women and minorities, forever breaking the good ole boy hold on things there. She knew the power of laughing at her political enemies and of laughing at herself. And she had a real Texas accent.

When we lost our majorities in 1994, I wasn't upset about Tom Foley or Carol Mosely Braun; Congress hadn't done its job of stopping Reagan and Bush – or of helping Carter and Clinton. It had grown flabby and wishy-washy – not as corrupt as the current Republican leadership, but not the energetic legislative branch we wanted. But I was upset that Ann Richards lost. If we win this time, I hope every one of our leaders thinks of Ann and emulates her, even if just a little bit.

Steven Skyles-Mulligan, CRDC President

Trump Condo-Hotel Scheme Threatens Chelsea and Neighborhoods Citywide

Right now, behind closed doors, the City is considering a request by Donald Trump to allow, for the first time ever, condo-hotels in manufacturing zones in New York City. If the City agrees, zoning protections for our neighborhood will be compromised, and these luxury high-rises will likely proliferate in manufacturing zones in western and southern Chelsea. The likely result? Further change in the character of our neighborhood, blue-collar jobs and businesses pushed out, the West Chelsea Gallery District threatened, and the City's commitment to create affordable housing in our neighborhood undermined.

People think these kinds of changes can only happen with a zoning change, which requires lots of public hearings, environmental reviews, and votes by our elected and appointed representatives. But Trump has come up with a way to sidestep that whole process without you having any say in it, and the City looks like they may give it to him.

How? Condo-hotels are a new breed of development that combines luxury hotel services with individual ownership of units; buyers are usually young jet-setters who live there part of the year and rent out their units the remainder of the year for a profit. Manufacturing zones like parts of West Chelsea do allow “transient” hotels (i.e. guests who pay by the day for short-term stays), but explicitly prohibit residential development and even residential hotels. Condo-hotels are clearly NOT transient hotels, while certainly containing characteristics of residences or residential hotels. Residences are generally not allowed in manufacturing zones because they tend to push out manufacturing businesses and jobs, of which the City has ever fewer. But Trump wants the City to consider condo-hotels “transient” hotels, so he can build them in manufacturing zones in spite of the prohibition against residential and residential hotel development in these areas.

Worse for West Chelsea, when the City recently rezoned some parts of the neighborhood to remove the manufacturing zoning and allow residential development, they also promised to preserve the manufacturing zoning for the remaining parts to protect existing businesses and the West Chelsea gallery district. They also made the commitment that in any old manufacturing zones where luxury residential development was introduced, we would at least get incentives for the creation of some affordable housing in return.

Well if these luxury condo-hotels are allowed in West Chelsea as Trump wants, there will be NO affordable housing component attached, and restrictions that were supposed to protect local businesses and limit the types of new high-rise development will be stripped away. And this will happen not just in Chelsea, but in any manufacturing district in the city, including western Hell's Kitchen, the Meatpacking District, and parts of the Far West Village, NoHo, SoHo, Tribeca, Hudson Square, Williamsburg/Greenpoint, Red Hook, etc.

That's why elected officials and community and business groups from across the City are opposing this plan, and locally, so are Tom Duane, Jerry Nadler, and Deborah Glick. So can you. Go to www.gvshp.org/trumplet.htm for a sample letter you can send to the City now urging them to reject this scheme; go to www.gvshp.org/documents/trump-Chel.pdf for a flyer you can share with friends and neighbors; and go to www.gvshp.org/trump.htm for more information or to get further involved.

Andrew Berman, CRDC member



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SAVE THE DATE:

CRDC Annual Pot Luck Holiday Party

Sunday, December 3rd, 5 – 8 p.m.

Dusk Lounge, 147 West 24th Street
(Between 7th & 8th Avenues)

Join CRDC Today!

It's Never
Too Early
To Pay Your
2007 Dues

If you haven't already, become a 2007 member of CRDC, New York City's most progressive Democratic club. Just fill out this form and return it to us.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone (Day): _____

(Evening) _____

Email: _____

___ \$25 Individual ___ \$40 H'Hold ___ \$50 Patrons

___ \$10 Ltd. Income ___ \$15 H'Hold Limited Income

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