

# *ELECTION 2008*

## *Impact In Indian Country*

*National Congress of American Indians*

*November 6, 2008*

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

# Election 2008: Impacts in Indian Country

1. **Native Vote Report**
2. **State Level Changes**
  - **Native Candidates**
  - **Ballot Initiatives**
3. **Federal**
  - **National Election trends**
  - **111<sup>th</sup> Congress**
    - **Senate**
    - **House**
  - **New Administration/Transition**



# Native Vote Efforts

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# Native Vote Campaign

- The Native Vote 2008 Campaign was an extensive national non-partisan effort to mobilize American Indian and the Alaska Native voters
- Key Native Vote States in 2008
  - Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming

# Election Protection Project

- Attorneys organize volunteer attorneys to poll watch at precincts across the country on Election Day.
- Things ran very smoothly in states where Tribes were organized.
- Problems
  - Confusion about IDs
  - Local tensions with State officials

# Some Best Practices Among Tribes

- (1) Full Time tribal staff member to oversee effort (*LTBB*)
- (2) Administrative time to volunteer and to vote
- (3) Tribal publicity and engagement (*Crow, Standing Rock*)
- (4) Tribal transportation assistance (*Navajo*)



# Native Vote Results

## (1) Tribes With Established Infrastructure

- Minnesota – 83% Tribal turnout (*tribal sample*)

## (2) Tribes Building Infrastructure

- Montana – 65% Tribal turnout (Crow 77%)
- South Dakota – Standing Rock 61%-91%

## (3) Infrastructure Needed

- Alaska – 47% Native turnout



# States

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# Gubernatorial Races

- Less affected by the overall movements Tuesday.
- 11 Gubernatorial races.
- 7 Democrats won. 4 Republicans won. But only one of those seats was a party change (Missouri to Democrat)
- 5 Native Vote states-All incumbents won. One open seat.

Republicans 21

Democrats 29

## MONTANA:

Brian Schweitzer (D) *incumbent* 65%

## NORTH CAROLINA:

Beverly Perdue (D) *open* 50%

## NORTH DAKOTA:

John Hoeven (R) *incumbent* 74%

## WASHINGTON:

Christine Gregoire (D) *incumbent* 54%

## UTAH:

Jon Huntsman (R) *incumbent* 78%

# Shifts in State Legislatures

## Shift To Democratic Control

- Nevada
- New York
- Wisconsin

## Shift to Republican Control

- Montana (*pending*)

# State Ballot Initiatives Affecting Indian Country

- (1) Contracting Related
- (2) Gaming Initiatives
- (3) Payday Lending

# Indian State Elected Leaders

- Dozens of Native candidates running across the U.S.
- At least 16 Natives on the ballot in Montana and Oklahoma.
- At least 7 in New Mexico and South Dakota.

## FEDERAL:

- Oklahoma: U.S. Congress: Tom Cole (*Chickasaw*) won

## STATE-WIDE OFFICES:

- Washington: Governor : Dino Rossi (*Tlingit*) lost
- Montana: State Superintendent of Public Instruction:  
Denise Juneau (*Hidatsa Mandan*) won



# Federal

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# National Election Trends

- Major Trends

Overall Analysis

Effect on Indian Country



# Congress

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# Senate

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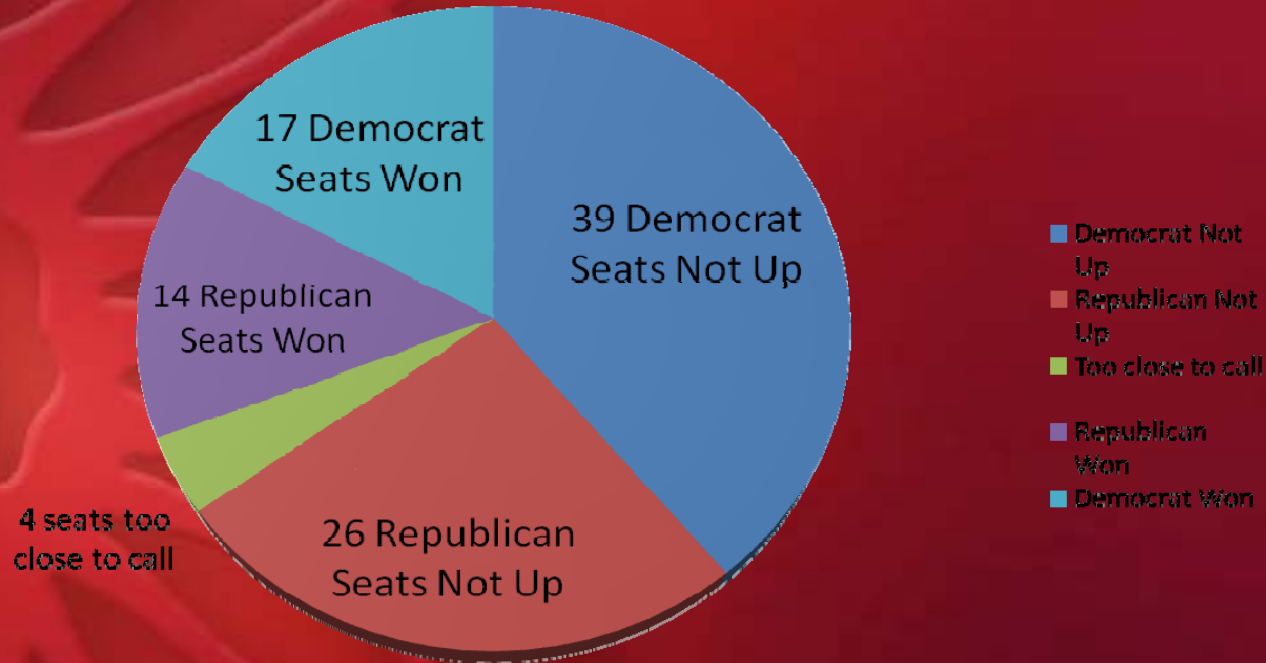


# New Senate Party Composition

Democrats: 56 (+5 from last Congress; Lieberman ?)

Republicans: 40

Too Close To Call: 4 (AK, OR, GA, MN)



# New Indian Country Senators

## New Seat Holder:

**ID: Jim Risch (R)**

**CO: Mark Udall (D)**

**NE: Mike Johanns (R)**

**NC: Kay Hagan (D)**

**NM: Tom Udall (D)**

**VA: Mark Warner (D)**

## Formerly Held By:

*Larry Craig (R)*

*Wayne Allard (R)*

*Chuck Hagel (R)*

*Elizabeth Dole (R)*

*Pete Domenici (R)*

*John Warner (R)*

# Indian Country Incumbent Senators Re-Elected

**Maine:** Susan Collins (R)

**Michigan:** Carl Levin (D)

**Mississippi:** Tad Cochran (R)  
Roger Wicker (R)

**Montana:** Max Baucus (D)

**Oklahoma:** James Inhofe (R)

**South Dakota:** Tim Johnson (D)

**Wyoming:** Mike Enzi (R)  
John Barrasso (R)

# Undecided Indian Country Senate Races

## Incumbent

## Challenger

**Alaska:**

**Ted Stevens (R)**

*Mark Begich (D)*

**Oregon:**

**Gordon Smith (R)**

*Jeff Merkley (D)*

**Minnesota: Norm Coleman (R)**

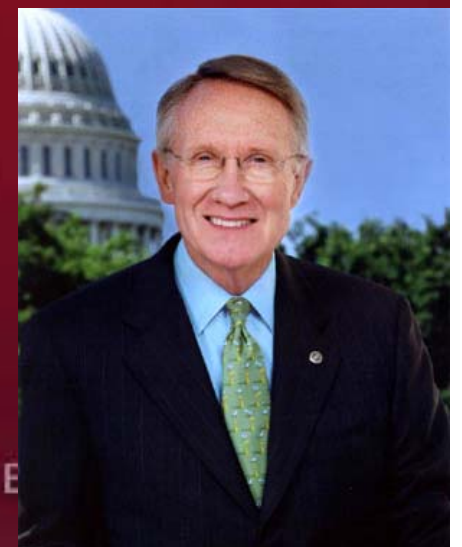
*Al Franken (D)*

*\*Note Georgia race is also undecided. Runoff election in December.*

# Senate Leadership

## Democratic Leadership Unlikely to Change

- **Senate Majority Leader:** Harry Reid (NV)
- **Majority Whip:** Dick Durbin (IL)
- **Policy Committee:** Byron Dorgan (ND)



# Senate Leadership

## Possible Senate Republican Leadership Change

- **Minority Leader:** Mitch McConnell (KY)
- **Minority Whip:** Jon Kyl (AZ)
- **Conference Vice-Chair:** **Current:** John Cornyn (TX)  
**New?** John Thune (SD);  
Lisa Murkowski (AK);  
Jeff Sessions (AL); Richard Burr (NC)

# Senate Committees

## Senate Committee on Indian Affairs

- **Chair:** Current: Byron Dorgan (ND)
- **Vice Chair:** Current: Lisa Murkowski (AK)  
New? Tom Coburn (OK)





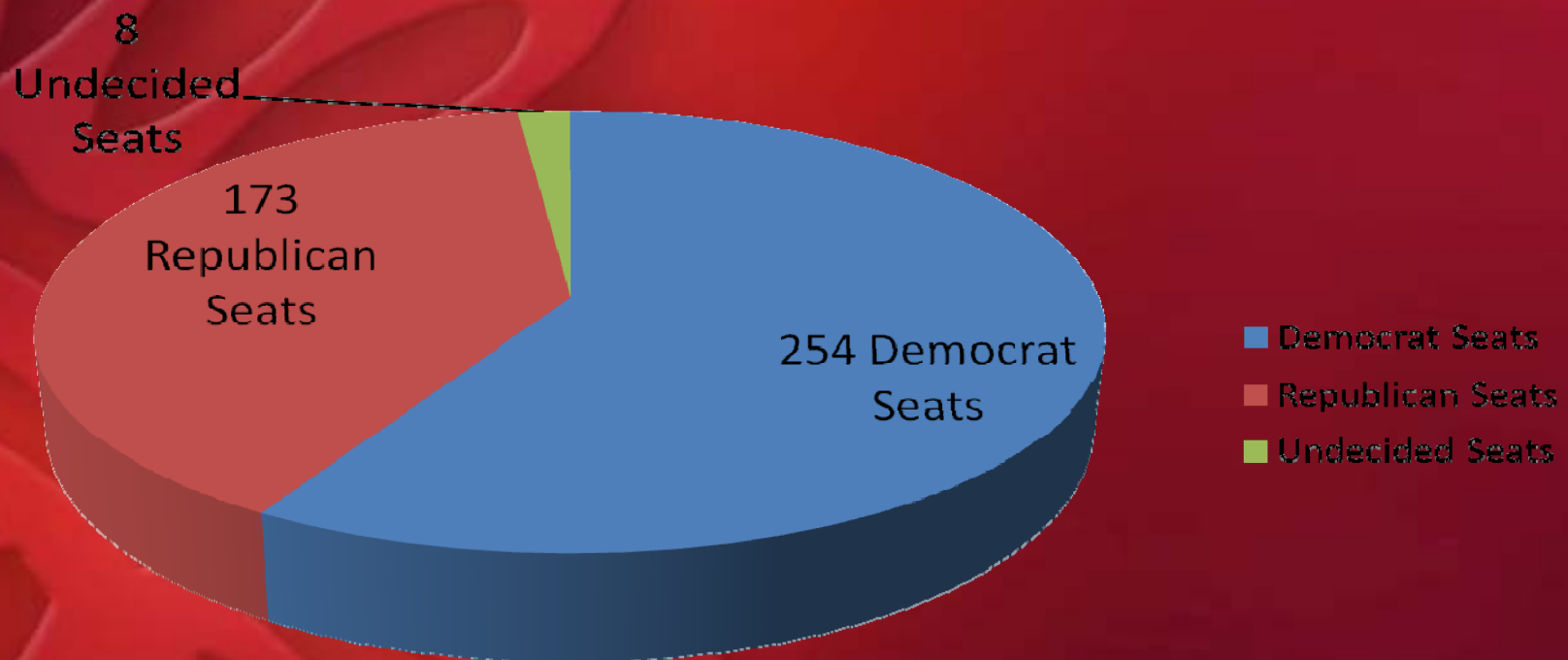
# House of Representatives

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# New House Party Composition

Democrats 254 (+18) Republicans 173 (-18) 8 undecided



# Some Indian Country House Changes

<b>AZ</b>	<b>1: Kirkpatrick (D)</b> [ <i>Renzi</i> ]	<b>NV</b>	<b>3: Titus (D)</b> [ <i>Porter</i> ]
<b>CT</b>	<b>4: Himes (D)</b> [ <i>Shays</i> ]	<b>NM</b>	<b>1: Heinrich (D)</b> [ <i>Wilson</i> ]
<b>CO</b>	<b>2: Polis (D)</b> [ <i>Udall</i> ]		<b>2: Teague (D)</b> [ <i>Pearce</i> ]
<b>FL</b>	<b>16: Rooney (R)</b> [ <i>Mahoney</i> ]		<b>3: Lujan (D)</b> [ <i>Udall</i> ]
<b>ID</b>	<b>1: Minnick (D)</b> [ <i>Sali</i> ]	<b>NY</b>	<b>25: Maffei (D)</b> [ <i>Walsh</i> ]
<b>MI</b>	<b>7: Schauer (D)</b> [ <i>Walberg</i> ]		<b>29: Massa (D)</b> [ <i>Slaughter</i> ]
	<b>9: Peters (D)</b> [ <i>Knollenberg</i> ]		

All House Incumbents Won: California, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Wisconsin

## Still Pending/Too Close to Call

ALASKA:	Don Young (R)	Ethan Berkowitz (D)
WASHINGTON-8:	Dave Reichert (R)	Darcy Burner (D)

# House Leadership

## Democrats Little Change - Republicans in Play

### HOUSE DEMOCRATS



- **Speaker:** Nancy Pelosi (CA)
- **Majority Leader:** Steny Hoyer (MD)
- **Majority Whip:** James Clyburn (SC)
- **Caucus Chair:** **Current:** Rahm Emanuel (IL)  
**New?** Chris Van Hollen (MD);  
Xavier Becerra (CA)
- **Assistant to Speaker:** **Current:** Xavier Becerra (CA)
- **DCCC Chairman:** **Current:** Chris Van Hollen (MD)  
**New?** Debbie Wasserman Schultz (FL)

# House Leadership

## HOUSE REPUBLICANS

- **Minority Leader:** **Current:** John Boehner (OH)  
**New?** Paul Ryan (WI); Eric Cantor (VA)
- **Minority Whip:** **Current:** Roy Blunt (MO)  
**New?** Eric Cantor (VA)
- **Conference Chair:** **Current:** Adam Putnam (FL)  
**New?** Jeb Hensarling (TX); Kevin McCarthy (CA)
- **NRCC Chairman:** **Current:** Tom Cole (OK)  
**New?** Kevin McCarthy (CA)

# Some House Committee Changes

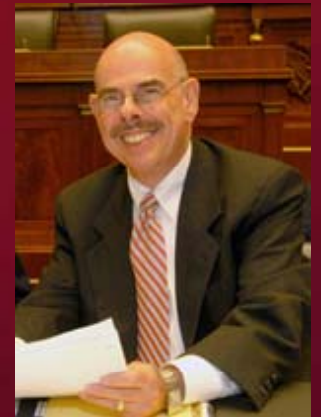
## House Energy and Commerce

- **Chair?** John Dingell (MI)
  - *Challenge from Henry Waxman (CA)*



## House Oversight & Government Reform

- **Chair?** Currently Henry Waxman (CA)
  - *Interested in Energy & Commerce*
- **Ranking?** Currently Tom Davis (VA)
  - *Interest from Darrell Issa (CA)*





# Legislative Priorities

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# 110<sup>th</sup> “Lame Duck” Possibilities

- **Lame Duck** (*November 17-20*)
  - **Senate “Lands Bill”**
  - **Economic Stimulus (Package #1)**
- **Indian Country Priorities**
  - **IC Economic Stimulus Provisions**
  - **Indian Health Care Improvement Act**
  - **Pension Fix**

# The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress:

## *Some Anticipated National Priorities*

- Appropriations (*March 6, 2009 Deadline*)
- Economic stimulus package #2
- Possible Obama Administration Priorities
  - Energy/Foreign Oil dependence
    - Climate Change
  - Iraq
  - Health Care
- Pelosi Short Term
  - S-CHIP (*March deadline*)
  - Stem Cell Research Funding



# The 111<sup>th</sup> Congress:

## *Some Indian Country Priorities*

- Indian Country Economic Stimulus
  - Tax Exempt Bonds
- Law Enforcement Reform
- Appropriations
- Tribal Governmental Parity
  - Pensions, Tax, etc
- Indian Health Care Improvement Act
- Trust reform

# 111<sup>th</sup> Congressional Education Project

- Congressional Meetings (NCAI Law Lobb Team, Tribal leaders, NCAI staff)
  - New Members of Congress
  - New Leadership and Committee Members and Staff
- Congressional Briefings
- Media/Policy Briefings



# Administration & Transition

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# Obama Transition Team

## Co-Chairs:

- John Podesta; Valerie Jarret; Pete Rouse (*former Chief of Staff for Daschle*)

## Advisory Committee Members Include:

- Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano
- Phil Schiliro (*former Daschle staffer*)
- Federico Pena (*former Sec. Transportation, Energy*)
- David Hayes (*former Dep. Sec. of Interior*)
- Carol Browner (*former EPA Director*)

# Possible New Administration Appointments

## Department of Interior

- John Leshy
- Congressman Jay Inslee (WA)
- Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer

## Department of HHS

- Former Senator Tom Daschle (SD)

# Early Indian Country Involvement

- **Indian Country Transition Plan**
  - Identify Indian Country's Priorities Early
  - Policy Recommendations Ready to Go
- **Indian Country Appointments**
  - Broad Indian Participation in Transition Team
  - Resume Book
  - Major Indian Appointments
    - Must be made within 60 days

# Immediate Indian Country Appointments Needed

- Secretary of Interior
- White House Advisor on Indian Nations
- Create OMB Assistant Director for Native American Programs
- Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs
- Department of Justice and U.S. Attorneys
- Federal Judicial Appointments
- White House Office of Personnel

# Indian Country Participating in Broader National Policy Initiatives

- Economic Stimulus
- Climate Change and Energy
- Health Care
- Education and Job Training
- Military and Veterans Issues



# Major Tribal Priorities for Next Administration

- Tribal Sovereignty and Government to Government
- Trust Settlement and Trust Reform
- Law Enforcement
- Funding of Tribal Services
- Tribal Governmental Parity (*Tax Issues, etc*)

# Things you can do...

- **Administration Appointments**
  - Send in resumes of qualified nominees for all levels
  - Immediate appointments. Names? Experience with them?
- **U.S. Attorneys and Federal Judges**
  - Talk to your Senate office about appointments
- **Participate in NCAI Transition Team**

# Thank You

*Please contact NCAI for any additional questions:  
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