

**To: NCANA Board of Directors**

**From: Joanne Stevens & Frank Gray**

**Date: November 6, 2008**

**Re: State Election Results from Tuesday, November 4**

Tuesday's election results were historic nationally, with the election of the first African-American President, Barack Obama. They were no less historic here in North Carolina, with the election of Bev Perdue, the first female Governor in our state's history, and the upset win by challenger Kay Hagan over incumbent U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole. Here is an overview of Tuesday's election returns in state office and legislative races:

**Governor, Lt. Governor & Council of State.** In the Governor's race, Lt. Governor Bev Perdue defeated Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory by a 50%-47% margin. State Senator Walter Dalton defeated fellow Senator Robert Pittenger by an even larger margin for Lt. Governor. Wayne Goodwin, former Chief Deputy to retiring Commissioner Jim Long, won election as Insurance Commissioner. Roy Cooper easily won reelection as Attorney General. In other Council of State races, only one seat changed hands, as Beth Wood (D) gained the office of State Auditor over incumbent Les Merritt (R). For other offices, either the incumbent won, or the offices remained in the same party. The Council of State will look like this for the next four years: Secretary of State Elaine Marshall (D), State Auditor Beth Wood (D), Treasurer Janet Cowell (D), Superintendent of Public Instruction June Atkinson (D), Attorney General Roy Cooper (D), Commissioner of Agriculture Steve Troxler (R), Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry (R), and Commissioner of Insurance Wayne Goodwin (D).

**General Assembly – House.** Two incumbents lost, and both of those were House Democrats—Jim Harrell, D-Surry and Walter Church, D-Burke. The 68 to 52 Democratic majority will remain the same, however, as the losses were made up by Democratic victories in two open seats previously held by retiring Republicans Bill Daughtridge (R -Nash) and Charles Thomas (R-Buncombe). We would expect Rep. Joe Hackney to remain as Speaker. Some hard fought and closely watched races in the House were in seats held by Hugh Holliman (D), Nelson Dollar (R), Van Braxton (D), Alice Underhill (D), Cullie Tarleton (D), and Ray Warren (D), which were all won by the incumbents.

**General Assembly – Senate.** Some prognosticators predicted that Republicans could take over the Senate. However, the Democrats held all the current seats, except the open seat vacated by Lt. Governor-elect Walter Dalton, where House member Debbie Clary (R) won by 730 votes. This brings the total in the Senate to 30 (D) to 20 (R). We would not expect any major changes in Senate leadership either. There were a number of highly contested races, all of which featured Democratic incumbents and two open seats to defend. Debbie Clary (R) won one of the open seats, and Don Davis (D) won the seat vacated by Sen. John Kerr, defeating House member Louis Pate. Democratic Senators R.C. Soles, Julia Boseman, Tony Foriest, Joe Sam Queen, and Steve Goss all survived hard fought races.