REPUBLICANS MAKE HISTORIC GAINS NATIONWIDE …
Two years into Barack Obama’s presidency, persistent economic hardship and voter discontent with government did not bode well for Democrats. Republicans took control of the U.S. House, picking up 63 seats (242 Republicans, 193 Democrats)—the largest turnover for either party since 1948. Democrats lost six Senate seats, but narrowly kept a majority (51 Democrats, 47 Republicans, 2 independents). Republicans (29) now hold more governorships than Democrats (20) after gaining six seats; one independent holds a governor’s seat.

… BUT IN CALIFORNIA, DEMOCRATS WIN ALL EXECUTIVE BRANCH OFFICES.
In the governor’s race, Democrat Jerry Brown defeated Republican Meg Whitman by a 13-point margin (54% to 41%, 5% other). Brown won in the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles; Whitman won in the Central Valley and Orange County. Democrats in other statewide races also won: Gavin Newsom (Lieutenant Governor), Debra Bowen (Secretary of State), John Chiang (Controller), Bill Lockyer (Treasurer), Kamala D. Harris (Attorney General), and Dave Jones (Insurance Commissioner). Tom Torlakson won the nonpartisan race for Superintendent of Public Instruction.

DEMOCRAT BARBARA BOXER KEEPS U.S SENATE SEAT; ALL HOUSE INCUMBENTS WIN.
In the U.S. Senate race, incumbent Barbara Boxer (52%) beat Republican Carly Fiorina (42%) to earn a fourth term. Boxer won in virtually the same counties as Jerry Brown. As Democrats across the country lost House races, none of California’s 53 seats switched parties (34 Democrats, 19 Republicans); just two seats were open. This was the last election involving Congressional districts drawn after the 2000 Census.

NO ANTI-INCUMBENT SENTIMENT IN STATE LEGISLATURE; DEMOCRATS PICK UP ASSEMBLY SEATS.
Of the 40 state senate seats, 20 were up for election and two seats will have special elections in coming months. Democrats now hold 24 seats, and Republicans 14. No incumbent lost and no open seats switched parties. All 80 assembly seats (50 Democrats, 29 Republicans, 1 independent) were on the ballot; two open seats changed parties. Democrats now hold 52 seats, and Republicans 28.

FOUR OF NINE CITIZENS’ INITIATIVES ON THE BALLOT PASS.
Voters passed Proposition 20, which expands the state redistricting commission to Congressional districts. Proposition 22, which prohibits the state from taking some local funds, also passed. Voters said yes to Proposition 25, which lowers the vote requirement to pass a state budget from two-thirds to a simple majority, and Proposition 26, which requires a two-thirds vote for some state and local fees. Propositions 19 (marijuana legalization), 21 (state park vehicle license fee), 23 (AB 32 suspension), 24 (business tax liability), and 27 (redistricting commission elimination), all failed.

Currently, 17.3 million Californians (73.4% of eligible voters) are registered. This number is up from 15.8 million (70%) in 2006, the last gubernatorial election, and 15.3 million (71.3%) in 2002. Democrats have a 13.1-point edge in registration over Republicans; the gap has widened from 8.2 points in 2006 and 9.4 points in 2002. A record 3.5 million (20.3%) are registered as independents, up from 3 million (18.7%) in 2006, and 2.3 million (15.2%) in 2002. Turnout (59.6%) this year is higher than in each gubernatorial election since 1994 (56.2% 2006, 50.6% 2002, 57.6% 1998, 60.5% 1994).
California’s 2010 General Election

Governor’s Race

- Jerry Brown: 54%
- Meg Whitman: 41%
- Other candidates: 5%

U.S. Senate Race

- Barbara Boxer: 52%
- Carly Fiorina: 42%
- Other candidates: 6%

California U.S. House Seats

- Democrats: 34 seats
- Republicans: 19 seats

California State Legislature

- Senate*: 24 Democrats, 14 Republicans
- Assembly: 52 Democrats, 28 Republicans

*Two additional seats will soon have special elections

State Ballot Proposals

- Prop 19: Marijuana Legalization
- Prop 20: Congressional Redistricting
- Prop 21: Park and Vehicle License Fee
- Prop 22: State and Local Fund Transfer
- Prop 23: AB 32 Suspension
- Prop 24: Business Tax Liability
- Prop 25: Majority Budget Vote
- Prop 26: State and Local Fees 2/3 Vote
- Prop 27: Redistricting Commission Elimination

- Prop 19: Yes 53%, No 47%
- Prop 20: Yes 39%, No 61%
- Prop 21: Yes 57%, No 43%
- Prop 22: Yes 39%, No 61%
- Prop 23: Yes 62%
- Prop 24: Yes 58%
- Prop 25: Yes 45%
- Prop 26: Yes 48%
- Prop 27: Yes 59%

Source: California Secretary of State Statement of Vote November 2, 2010 General Election. The New York Times Election Results.

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