

The CONEG Connection - November 9, 2016

Election 2016

Last night, votes were still being counted until well past midnight. Many people woke up this morning to the quite unexpected news that Donald Trump was elected the 45th President of the United States.

In the coming weeks expect statements from President-elect Trump on his policy priorities as well as an uptick in the number of names being floated as potential Cabinet picks.



The Northeast:

New Governors in the CONEG Region

Vermont's current lieutenant governor Phil Scott was elected the 82nd Governor of the Green Mountain State. Governor Peter Shumlin did not seek reelection.

Governor-elect Scott was born in Barre, Vermont, attended Spaulding High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Vermont.

Phil started his first business – a boat rental and lawn mowing service - at the age of 18. He later worked for Dubois Construction, a Middlesex excavation company owned by his uncle, starting as a day laborer and eventually buying the company with his cousin.

In 2000 Scott was elected to the Vermont Senate and represented Washington County for five consecutive terms, serving on the Natural Resources and Energy Committee and as Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee and Chair of the Institutions Committee. In 2005, he founded the Wheels for Warmth program which uses the proceeds from the sale of donated tires (more than \$309,000 to date) to benefit heating assistance programs.



In 2010 Scott was elected Lieutenant Governor and served three consecutive terms. Drawing on his experiences and challenges as a business owner, Lt. Governor Scott started a "Vermont Everyday Jobs" initiative, where he spends time working in different jobs throughout the state, and the Vermont Economy Pitch sessions that allow businesses to present ideas directly to legislators on how to improve Vermont's business climate.

Lt. Governor Scott, an avid racecar driver and cyclist, lives in Berlin with his wife Diana McTeague Scott. He has two grown daughters, Erica and Rachael.



Chris Sununu was elected the 82nd Governor of New Hampshire filling the seat of Governor Maggie Hassan who retired from office to run for the U.S. Senate.

Chris was born in Salem, New Hampshire and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He worked for ten years as an environmental engineer throughout the United States designing systems and solutions for cleaning up some of the country's most hazardous wastes sites.

Chris was also owner and Director of Sununu Enterprises, a family business and strategic consulting group. The position has given him experience and insight into the importance of New Hampshire's small business economy.

In 2010, he led a group of local investors in the buyout of Waterville Valley Resort where he currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and is working with the U.S. Forest Service to significantly expand the resort.

Sununu is currently serving his third term on the Executive Council representing 32 cities and towns in Rockingham and Hillsborough counties.

Chris lives in Newfields with his wife, Valerie, and their three children, Calvin, Edie, and Leo. He is an active skier and rugby player and, in 1998, completed a five-month hike of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia.

State Ballot Initiatives

Three CONEG states (ME, MA and RI) had ballot referendums this election on a variety of issues ranging from legalization of marijuana, expansion of casino gambling, and increased funding for education. Of interest, Maine and Rhode Island voted on ballot referendums that would authorize the states to issue bonds for several infrastructure projects.



Maine Question 6 would authorize the state to issue \$100,000,000 in bonds for construction, and rehabilitation of highways and bridges and for ports, harbors, marine transportation, freight and passenger railroads, aviation, transit and bicycle and pedestrian trails. The funds would be used to match an \$137,000,000 in federal and

other funds. Preliminary results indicate that the question was approved with more than 61% of voters agreeing.

Rhode Island voters agreed to ballot questions authorizing:

- \$70 million in bonds for port infrastructure modernization.
- \$35 million in bonds for environmental and recreational programs such as bikeway development, brownfield remediation and storm water pollution prevention.

Congress

On Capitol Hill, Republicans have retained their majority in the House with a projected 241-194 party ratio. The Northeast will see very little turnover in the House delegation. There were only a few open House seats in the CONEG region, and only one incumbent was defeated.



Republicans are poised to keep their Senate majority. Democrats would have needed 5 seats to capture a majority, but as of this morning Democrats picked up only one seat as many endangered Senate Republicans rode Trump's coattails to reelection. New Hampshire's Senate race is still too close to call with Senator Ayotte and Governor Hassan virtually tied and one Louisiana's race is undecided. The other three CONEG state Senate seats up for election (CT, NY, VT) were won by incumbents. The Senate ratio right now stands at 51 Republicans - 45 Democrats - 2 Independents. [Here is a link to a chart of Northeast delegation results.](#)

The last time the same party controlled the White House, House and Senate was 2010 when Democrats took the opportunity to pass major high-priority legislation such as the Affordable Care Act and Dodd-Frank. Speaker Ryan has already suggested that repealing and replacing President Obama's healthcare law will be a priority for congressional Republicans, and it is expected that that Trump will nominate a Supreme Court pick soon after assuming office.

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