

# Women, minorities hold on, but lose some key races

**By Kalpana Srinivasan**  
 WASHINGTON (AP)— Blacks lost their sole seat in the U.S. Senate last week, as Republican Peter Fitzgerald trumped Democratic incumbent Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun in a close race in Illinois.

The first black woman elected to the Senate, and only the second black senator since the post-Civil War era, Moseley-Braun came in during the landmark "Year of the Woman" in 1992.

The last black senator was Edward Brooke, a two-term Republican from Massachusetts who left in 1979.

The only other black major party nominee for Senate, former Rep. Gary Franks, a Republican of Connecticut, failed to win the seat of three-term Democrat Christopher Dodd.

Other minority incumbents successfully fought off challengers. In Hawaii, Asian-American Democrat

Daniel Inouye retained the Senate seat he was first elected to in 1962.

The Senate's lone Native American, Republican Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, also kept his seat.

If minorities were proportionally represented in the U.S. House and Senate according to population, there would be 12 black senators and more than 50 black House members.

The black caucus currently has 34 House members. Blacks make up 12 percent of the U.S. population.

In a high profile race involving a Hispanic candidate, former Albuquerque Mayor Martin Chavez failed to oust Republican incumbent Gary Johnson from the New Mexico governorship. Hispanics, who make up about 9 percent of the population, held 19 seats in the House and two nonvoting delegates prior to the election. No Senate members are

Hispanic. Arturo Vargas, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, predicted that this election would nonetheless mark milestones for Hispanic candidates.

Vargas called this the year of the "crossover" candidate, emphasizing that Hispanics aspiring for office would not only benefit from a surge in the Latino electorate, but also from voter support among non-Latinos.

"There will be a number of Latinos who have won where the majority of those who elected them into office are not Latino," said Vargas.

Despite predictions that this election would mark the undoing of 1992's "Year of the Woman," Democratic Sens. Barbara Boxer of California and Patty Murray of Washington retained their jobs in cliffhanger races.

Boxer beat Matt Fong, a Chinese American. Asian Americans, about three percent of the population, also

are under-represented in Congress.

Democrat Blanche Lambert Lincoln, who left Congress two years ago to be a stay-at-home mom in Arkansas, won a bid for the U.S. Senate over Republican state Sen. Fay Boozman.

She will become the 17th woman senator in U.S. history, filling the seat being vacated by the retiring Democratic Sen. Dale Bumpers. There will be nine women in the Senate next year, the same as this year.

The two women governors seeking re-election won their races—Republican Jane Dee Hull of Arizona and Democrat Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire.

Other attempts to put women at the statehouse helms by upsetting incumbents did not fare as well.

Republican Ellen Sauerbrey lost her bid to lead Maryland, and Democrat Barbara Kennelly, a House member since 1982, lost her race to head Connecticut.

## AIDS

(Continued from Page 15) Without the epidemic, it would have been 1.6 percent, he said.

The potential loss of so many millions of Africans, Chamie added, underscored "the lack of prevention" in Africa.

"AIDS is preventable if you simply take the steps," he argued. "It will continue to be transmitted until sexual patterns change, people take preventive measures" and governments educate the population about HIV transmission and AIDS.

The other results of the division's 1998 revision of its population estimates largely show good news about the global effort to reduce fertility.

World population growth has fallen from its peak of two percent in the 1960s — or an increase of some 86

million people every year — to 1.3 percent, or a net increase of 78 million people a year, today, the report says.

"Population is an evolving success story for the international community and the United Nations, but, still more needs to be done," Chamie said.

Under current projections, the world population will pass six billion by next year, and under the most likely projections, it is expected to hit nine billion by the year 2054. By the year 2050, India is projected to be the world's most populous country with about 1.53 billion people, compared to 1.48 billion for China.

Eighteen countries in all are expected to have populations in excess of 100 million people by then, compared to just 10 countries above that mark now.

## Elections

(Continued from Page 12) Baker as attorney general and Michael Thurmond as commissioner of labor. Both are former members of the state legislature.

The entire slate, including the retiring incumbent governor did a bus tour into all sections of the state-together, and all of them, except the commissioner of insurance and school superintendent were winners. This must be the wave of the future. We can no longer tolerate a scenario wherein one party takes us for granted and the other just takes us. Well, I'm thankful for the message of this mid-term elections: God ain't a Republican! God is omnipotent. God is omniscient. God is omnipresent. And God is omni-non-partisan. Amen.

Dr. Joseph Lowery is chairman of the Black Leadership Forum.

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