



President-elect OBAMA

Clean sweep!

Democrats in Virginia outdid themselves this electoral season, not only electing a U.S. senator by a whopping majority (as expected) and putting Virginia in the Democratic presidential column for the first time in 44 years (as fervently hoped), but also putting a majority of Virginia's 11 House seats into Democratic hands (as few had even dreamed).

It was a smashing victory for Arlington Demo-

crats, who literally swept everything before them by unheard of margins. Newly elected Senator Mark Warner topped the ticket in the county with a shattering 76 percent of the vote, followed closely by County Board Member **Barbara Favola** with 75 percent. Barack Obama got 72 percent and Rep. **Jim Moran** 69 percent. School Board candidates

continued on page eight



THE CRUSH — Huge lines on Election Day were anticipated—and feared. And the early morning lines were immense. Here are folks waiting in Lyon Village precinct. The brick building barely visible at the far left is the voting place, with the entry way on the far side. Some folks reportedly had to wait two hours in

the morning. Campaign headquarters sent out more poll greeters to handle the crowds, but after the morning rush, the long lines disappeared and did not return—not even during the evening rush. The fact that 31 percent of Arlington's voters cast their ballots in the six weeks *before* Election Day certainly helped.

Check out the Virginia Pre-Inaugural Ball

Did your personal invitation to the Inaugural Ball get lost in the mail? Not to worry! There's a great alternative!

ACDC is teaming up with the Democratic Party of Virginia to host a *pre*-Inaugural Gala on January 19, the night before the big event!

It will be held at the Westin Arlington Gateway Hotel in Ballston—site of our annual Jefferson-Jackson Dinner—and an all-star guest list is expected to attend, including Governor Tim Kaine, Senator-elect Mark Warner, Senator Jim Webb, Congressman Jim Moran and other Virginia and elected officials.

More details to come in the January issue of *The Voice*. In the meantime, in early December, watch your e-mail and the ACDC website for ticket purchase information. Mark your calendars and stay tuned. Tickets will be a very hot item and are expected to sell out fast!

Report from Chairman Peter Rousselot

Thank you all

Thanks to your extraordinary efforts during the 2008 election campaign in Arlington, Barack Obama carried Arlington by a margin of almost 50,000 votes over John McCain. That margin was a major contributor to Obama's victory in Virginia. As you know, 2008 was the first time in 44 years that a Democratic candidate for President carried the state. Your participation in every aspect of this process enabled Obama to get 72% of the Arlington vote and Mark Warner to get 76% of our vote. Although we fell just a little bit short of the 80% goal we set for them, the results attained were truly historic—thanks to all of you.

Our candidate for Congress, incumbent Representative Jim Moran, again triumphed decisively in Arlington and throughout the Eighth Congressional District. As he has repeatedly in the past, Jim and his campaign team provided tremendous support to all of our Democratic candidates, with strong leadership at our headquarters and at the grassroots level. Jim's loyalty and dedication to our Democratic team are very welcome and much appreciated.

We also swept the field in all of our local races and our positions on the four bonds

and one ballot initiative. Barbara Favola was resoundingly re-elected with 75% of the vote. Once again, all four bonds were approved by wide margins. We defeated the ill-advised public housing authority ballot initiative by a 2 to 1 vote. Although they had no opposition because no other Republicans, Independents, or Green Party candidates were even willing to challenge them, our endorsed candidates for School Board, Libby Garvey and Emma Violand-Sanchez, also won.

Special thanks go to our 2008 Joint Campaign Co-Chairs, Arlington County Board member **Jay Fissette**, **Madi Green**, and **Jody Olson**, who led us to these great victories. Please join them at our next ACDC meeting December 3 as we celebrate and honor all the volunteers who made these victories possible.

As we move into 2009, it looks like we are going to be having spirited Democratic primary contests for the positions of Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General of Virginia. Closer to home, it appears that we will be having a primary contest for one Virginia House of Delegates seat from Arlington. These primaries will be held on June 9, 2009. We may also have a contest for the Democratic endorsement for School Board. If there is such a contest, it will be decided in a caucus held in May 2009. All of these events will provide opportunities for you to get involved in these campaigns—as well as the general election campaign in 2009.

With your continued help, dedication, and support, we look forward to even greater things in 2009.

School Board caucus set— just in case one is needed

ACDC has approved a call for a 2009 School Board Caucus—should one be re-

quired.

The move, taken at the November monthly meeting, calls for an unassembled caucus (affectionately referred to as a "firehouse primary" even though no fires or houses are involved) to be held Thursday, May 7, 2009, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington—where our monthly meetings are held—and on Saturday, May 9, 2009, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. in the cafeteria of Washington-Lee High School off the 1300 block of North Stafford Street.

One seat on the Arlington County School Board will be up for election next year—that currently held by School Board Chair **Ed Fendley**. While Virginia law mandates that School Board candidates run on a non-partisan basis, it has been the custom for political parties to endorse candidates who share their point of view.

The caucus will be held only if more than one candidate seeks the endorsement of the Arlington Democratic Party. No candidate may file until ACDC adopts the Rules for the Caucus, which will be voted on at an upcoming meeting. A nonrefundable filing fee of \$432.16, which is equal to two percent of the annual salary of a member of the Arlington County School Board, is required.

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2009 North 14th Street, Suite #612, Arlington, VA 22201

Tel: (703) 528-8588

Fax: (703) 528-2321

<http://www.arlingtondemocrats.org>

Chair: Peter Rousselot —703-276-1584 (o), pfrou@aol.com

Editor-in-Chief: Barbara van Voorst —703-522-6294 (h), barbvanvoorst@aol.com

Deputy Editor: Warren L. Nelson —703-243-7867 (h), warnelson@aol.com

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**Next Monthly Meeting—
All Dems (Volunteers Especially) Invited**

Wednesday, December 3, 2008, 7 p.m.

NRECA Building, 4301 Wilson Blvd

Corner of North Taylor and Wilson, just east of Glebe & Wilson

Free parking under building, enter from Taylor Street

No more hard work! Come celebrate. All volunteers—this means YOU—are invited to a VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DESSERT RECEPTION. The reception starts at 7 p.m., followed by a fun program at 7:30 p.m. with an abbreviated business meeting afterward.

**Bumper Sticker
of the Month**



Moran takes a peek at tomorrow

By Congressman Jim Moran

The pendulum of history has swung. The Democratic Party now has one of the largest governing majorities ever. But with this victory comes great responsibility—to govern fairly and openly and competently.

But we should also recognize that this election **is** a mandate for change. It is a rejection of the narrow, ideological conservatism that has come to define today's Republican Party.

The Economy

Trickle down economics didn't work. It made us all poorer.

Today, this country's wealth is concentrated at the very top to a more extreme degree than at any time since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The wealthiest 10% of Americans now own more than 80% of our nation's wealth.

The simplistic notion that they are entitled to keep as much wealth as possible without paying a fair share of the cost of the mili-

tary that protects it, the roads and rails that transport it, or the education of the work force that produces it is simply un-American.

Foreign Policy

The notion that having the world's largest military budget (it's 29 times larger than the budgets of all seven of our principal enemies) entitles us to declare war unilaterally and preemptively is simply wrong. When Dick Cheney said, "We don't negotiate, we dominate," he weakened our security around the world. The fiasco in Iraq has served for seven years as al-Qaeda's principal recruiting tool and rallying cry.

The Environment

And the notion that we should drill here,

drill now, maximizing the natural resources we can extract for our own convenience today without regard for their environmental consequences or the needs of future generations is also wrong and counterproductive. It takes us down the same dead end dependency on fossil fuels that has strengthened our enemies and bankrupted our consumers. With 4 1/2% of the world's population, we simply can't continue to use up 25% of the world's energy supply.

Never before has any administration used up so much of its children's fi-

financial future and natural resources in such a short period of time. Yes it **is** time for a change.

And if we do what is right, if we repair our economy, restore our international reputation, end the war in Iraq, and invest in, rather than borrow from, our future, then we will fulfill the destiny that should be our legacy.

We have repudiated the politics of fear and smear; we have turned our back finally on the injustice of prejudice.

We have elected a man on the content of his character, the clarity of his intellect and the courage of his commitment to make America great again, in the words of our forefathers, "to make this nation a moral guidepost to the world." This happened because each of you and all of you said to yourselves "I will make this happen." And now it is up to you again to make this nation we love so much all that we know it **can** be and determine that it **will** be!



Sue Gruskiewicz
Investment Representative

801 N. Quincy Street
Suite 150
Arlington, VA 22203
Bus. 703-243-9276 Fax 866-597-6452
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From Libby Garvey

I want to thank so many people—everyone who supported me in the spring caucus; ACDC and the caucus organizers for holding the caucus; and the joint campaign for its support this fall. What a well-run campaign this was and what an honor to be on the ballot with Barack Obama! Thanks to Emma for being such a great running mate.

I was so lucky to have a wonderful Campaign Manager, Frank Sietzen, over the past year, so a special thanks to him!

As you know, this has been a very difficult year for me. I really would not have the honor and privilege of returning to the School Board without the steadfast support, help and friendship of so many others. I very much look forward to being on the Board with a Democratic administration—can't wait, in fact—and you all made it happen. Thank you!

Libby Garvey



Photo courtesy Arlington Sun-Gazette

From left, re-elected School Board Member Libby Garvey, re-elected County Board Member Barbara Favola, and newly elected School Board Member Emma Violand-Sanchez.

From Barbara Favola

I was honored to receive 75% of the votes cast on Election Day. Your help and support were a key part of this victory. Thank You.

Together, we have made Arlington a wonderful place to call home. Over the next

four years, you can count on my unwavering commitment to the principles of fairness, equity and compassion as we continue to move Arlington forward. I look forward to working with you.

Barbara Favola

From Emma Violand-Sanchez

On Tuesday, November 4, Arlington's voters made history and demonstrated that the American Dream endures! I am proud and sincerely humbled to be your newest School Board member. SI SE PUEDE!

My passion for educational excellence and equity inspires me to serve. While I am very proud that Arlington Public Schools enjoy national recognition, I believe that we must continue to address the achievement gap. The graduation gap requires us to take action so that every high school student graduates and is prepared to succeed in college and in a global workforce.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the School Board and Arlington County Board to address future educational challenges and opportunities. Please join me at my official swearing in on Wednesday, December 17th at 5:00 p.m. at 1426 N. Quincy St.

Emma Violand-Sanchez

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce

Welcome to the 2009 primary campaign— now in progress

The cheering hasn't ended for the 2008 elections, but the 2009 primary season has already begun.

The primary race for the Democratic gubernatorial election looks to grow from two to three candidates, and a primary or caucus race involving **Al Eisenberg's** delegate seat is now in the offing.

Terry McAuliffe, a McLean resident who was chairman of the Democratic National Committee from 2001 to 2005, is exploring a run for governor. He would face Del. Brian Moran and State Sen. Creigh Deeds, who both announced their candidacies early in the year. That primary will be held Tuesday, June 9.

In addition to three likely candidates for the gubernatorial nomination, Democratic primaries are also shaping up for the other two statewide offices.

For attorney general, Steve Shannon, a delegate from Fairfax County and John Fishwick, a Roanoke trial lawyer, are vying.

For lieutenant governor, Jody Wagner of Virginia Beach, a former state secretary of finance, and Jon Bowerbank, a Russell County supervisor and businessman, have announced.

In Arlington, **Miles Grant**, a 31-year-old environmental campaigner, has announced plans to challenge Del. Al Eisenberg for the Democratic nomination. Eisenberg, 62, has not yet announced whether he will run for re-election. He was first elected to represent the 47th District in central Arlington in 2003.

In an interview with the *Arlington Connection*, Grant focused chiefly on environmental issues, saying Richmond was doing little on climate change. But he said he would not be a one-issue candidate and mentioned immigrant rights, gays, women and funding for public transit as other issues of concern.

Under Virginia law, Eisenberg can decide whether he wants to face his challenger in a primary or a party caucus.

On the county level, the terms of County Board Member **Jay Fissette** and School Board Member **Ed Fendley** are up next year.

On the GOP side, Arlingtonian Dave Foster is running for attorney general.

Donkey Ears

*Listening to the doings
of Arlington's Dems*

**as overheard by
Dan Steen and Warren Nelson**



Wedding bells: **John Grant**, who was **Mary Hynes'** campaign manager last year, has tied the knot. The new bride is Stephanie Thornton, a graduate of the University of Mary Washington and now registrar at the Hillwood Estate and Gardens in Washington. John and Steph wed in Blacksburg. But John confesses the honeymoon in Maui has been deferred to next summer.

Moving up: Congressman **Jim Moran** is moving up the ladder in the House. He was just elected by his Dem colleagues as a member of the House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee. That is a key leadership committee that votes on members' committee assignments. With 34 new freshmen joining the House, the committee has more than its normal load of work this time.

Ring in the new year: Looking ahead to New Year's Day, the annual tradition of a Democratic reception following the opening session of the County Board will continue with the site moving to the home and garden (if it's not blowing icicles) of County Board junior member **Mary Hynes**. Mary's home is in Lyon Village, just a hop, skip and a jump from the Clarendon Metro stop and from free parking under the County Human Services headquarters.

Listen to the stomach: School Board Member **Libby Garvey** didn't have much time to celebrate her re-election as she ended up in Fairfax Hospital a few days later! Libby's appendix burst, probably the Thursday after the election. She just thought it was a stomach virus and went about her business. On the Sunday after the election, her daughter insisted she go to the hospital. Good thing. Libby had two CAT scans, seven days of IV antibiotics in the hospital and what she calls "extreme R&R." She's back home recovering and doesn't appear to require surgery.

Listen to the heart: Former ACDC Chair and current Roosevelt Society chair **Charlene Bickford** is recovering after a heart procedure. Weeks after passing out and denting the sheetrock in her closet with her head, she checked into GWU Hospital. Through the modern miracle of "electrophysiology," the doctors stimulated her heart enough to make it do 240 beats a minute—even our huge election night win didn't make her heart go that fast! This allowed the doctors to see the problem, which was not what the EKG appeared to show, but rather a hereditary "bad electrical pathway." Doctors think they have eliminated that, which has apparently given Charlene periodic problems since she was 13.

Breathe deeply: You might not believe it after hearing about Libby and Charlene, but it's healthy to live in Northern Virginia. The American Human Development Project reports that residents of Virginia's 8th Congressional District (Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and the best parts of Fairfax County) have the highest life expectancy of any of the 435 congressional districts in the country—82.9 years. That is more than a decade higher than the life expectancy in #435—the 5th Congressional District of Kentucky, which abuts southwestern Virginia and has been represented for 28 years by Republican Harold Rogers. (He just won re-election with 84 percent of the vote.) One more reason to vote Democratic. Arlingtonians, of course, get much healthy exercise by working hard for their Democratic candidates. No joke!

Here are some memorable anecdotes for the campaign history of Autumn 2008

In what was probably one of the most organized, comprehensive, no-stone-left-unturned (or voter-uncontacted) campaigns in recent history, it is only natural that those who provided the rides, canvassed the voters, made the calls, manned the polls, and put up the signs had experiences that both touch the heart and make one smile. Here are some of them: **Nancy Pilchen**, who organized rides to the polls on Election Day and also to the Registrar's Office for early voters, reports the following:

...A driver takes a voter who is legally blind to the Registrar to vote in person absentee. On the way there, they have a discussion about both presidential candidates. The driver simply assumes the discussion is a way to pass the time. When they get to the Registrar, the voter asks the driver to fill out the ballot for her. The driver signs an affidavit (provided by the Registrar) to do so. The voter then instructs the driver to vote a straight Republican ticket. [Arlington Dems being ethical, the driver did as instructed.]

...A few days later, the same driver took a non-senior citizen to vote. Afterward the voter asked if the driver could take him to get some groceries. When they reached the supermarket, the voter asked if the driver could spot him some money as he was short at the time. Putting his Democratic values in action, the driver spotted him the money.

...On Election Day, a woman called from a hospital. The nursing staff was allowing her to check herself out temporarily to vote if ACDC could locate a vehicle that would hold a wheelchair. ACDC did have one, and the woman was driven to her precinct to vote. She had absolutely no identification with her except for her hospital bracelet because her family had made sure she had no valuables with her at the hospital. After a brief discussion with a lawyer posted at the precinct, she was allowed to vote. The election officials at the precinct were very supportive.

...The last call for a Ride to the Polls on Election Day came at 5:45 p.m. It was raining and at the height of rush hour. Not a good combination. He was upset because he had been waiting in the rain for 45 minutes (as ACDC didn't always get car requests swiftly). Nancy Pilchen located a driver in north Arlington who agreed to take on what was likely to be a two-hour round-trip. The two finally

connected and the race was on to beat the clock. As they drove and got to know each other, the voter revealed that he was with the Nation of Islam and the driver revealed that he was Jewish (two groups that haven't always agreed on all subjects). At the end, the voter gave the driver a button, which said, "Barack Obama, first Black President." Both were thrilled to have shared the experience with each other, and perhaps another stereotype was slightly reduced.

Here are some first-person reports of experiences by drivers, phone bankers and canvassers:

... G R E A T NEWS!!! I just finished my calls, and I spoke for 30 minutes with one woman and I convinced her and her sister-in-law to vote for Obama! We were all crying by the end of it! It was the most moving experience I've had in all the canvassing/phonebanking I've done so far. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to do this. By the end, she said I had changed her mind from undecided to "100 percent convinced"!

...I took a woman to vote this morning. She was voting for the first time in her life. She must be in her seventies. Her son, a police officer, registered her and told her, "Mama, this year you HAVE

to vote." She was very scared going in because she didn't know what to do, but I filled out a form that enabled me to accompany her to the machine and helped her vote the Dem ticket. She was so proud of herself and happy

continued on next page



NEW TIMES — In the good old days, ACDC had to pay big bucks to install lots of extra phone lines in order to get the campaign phone bank going. Hey, times have changed! You show up with your cellphone, we give you a computer generated list, and you take a seat at "our" phone bank in the hallway outside ACDC Headquarters.

Campaign anecdotes

continued from previous page

when we left. I can't believe I keep getting thanked for doing this.

...I was assigned to drive Mrs. B. She was a refined, elegant black woman whose husband had been in the Air Force. They had lived all over the world. She now lives alone. She cried when she voted. Every time I drove a person to the polls I participated in a vignette featuring strength and perseverance not of me, not of Obama, but of the individual determined to vote.

.... At 11:15 on election night, just after the projection had been made that Obama had won, the phone rang and it was the first person I had driven to Courthouse about a month ago. She was so excited I was worried for her heart. She had kept my number and called to thank me again for making it possible that she had been included in this historic event. Thank me?

Peter Rousselot briefed a delegation of Egyptians representing that country's prominent nongovernmental organizations and political parties at ACDC headquarters a few days before the election. Rousselot described



EFFORT — With volunteers at work in the background, ACDC Chairman Peter Rousselot (left foreground) briefed 14 Egyptians just before the election on how American parties run campaigns on the county level.

voter registration and the use of technology to reach the younger electorate, an important demographic in Egypt. The group also observed voter contact efforts by volunteers making phone calls and preparing posters and literature for distribution. The delegation was hosted by the International Republican Institute which, ecumenically, provided participants the chance to observe competitive campaigning and government election adminis-

tration, both of which impressed the visitors. Dr. Aymen Okeil proclaimed, "We witnessed a clean election right in front of our eyes!"

Madi Green, one of the three co-chairs of the Joint Campaign, was describing to the ACDC Steering Committee coverage at the polls on election day. "We'll have two people and one lawyer at every poll!" she exclaimed. The lawyers on the committee say they were not offended.

Democratic Values in Action

Ways to bring Xmas to the less fortunate

ACDC's ongoing breakfast cereal drive continues to be a big success. Our Arlington Democratic family has contributed 89 boxes of cereal to the Arlington Food Assistance Center since the project was initiated in May. The Center is now feeding over 1,000 families a month and boxed cereal is an item that is critically needed and one that is rarely donated. When you come to any ACDC meeting, please remember to bring a fresh box of cereal.

ACDC's own **Virginia Robinson**, who is very active with the Capital Area Food Bank, advises that, for just \$15, you can provide an entire Thanksgiving meal to an impoverished and hungry senior citizen in the DC metro area. For more information, go to: http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/donationcampaigns/dsp_donate.cfm?dcID=61.

Another way to demonstrate your Demo-

cratic Values in Action is by supporting the Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) program. OAR is sponsoring its annual holiday project to provide gifts for children of incarcerated parents.

While it is the parent who is incarcerated, it is often the children who feel they are the ones being punished. OAR seeks to diminish that feeling by ensuring there is a gift under the tree for each child whose jailed parent requests one through OAR. To help:

Donate new and unwrapped gifts (NO clothing) suitable for children up to 18 years of age; gifts for teens over 14 are especially needed.

Contribute financially to help cover the costs of delivery, postage and supplies. At least \$2,000 is needed to cover the out-of-pocket expenses. Does your company sponsor Holiday Projects? This is a great opportunity for a partnership.

Attend the Wrapping Party December 18 from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church located at 4000 Lorcom Lane in Arlington and bring a gift with you. Anyone can attend the Wrapping Party but an RSVP is needed. Email: ProjectXmasAngel@oaronline.org. Please bring friends and, if possible, a gift for a teenager. (Gift cards are a perfect gift.) Volunteers under 16 must be supervised by an adult.

Deliver the wrapped gifts to one or two families in your zip code. The gift deliverers must have a car and a valid driver's license and must be able to contact the family to finalize the delivery time and date. Delivery must be made between December 19 and December 22.

Charley Conrad and Sarah Zevin
Co-chairs
Democratic Values in Action.

Yes, Virginia, you did turn blue

continued from page one

Libby Garvey and **Emma Violand-Sanchez** were unopposed. It was a blowout from top to bottom in the county.

On the presidential level, the surprise was how well Barack Obama did statewide in Virginia. He didn't just eke out a win; he won convincingly. In fact, his Virginia margin of 52.62 percent was only a hair's breadth less than his national margin of 52.77 percent.

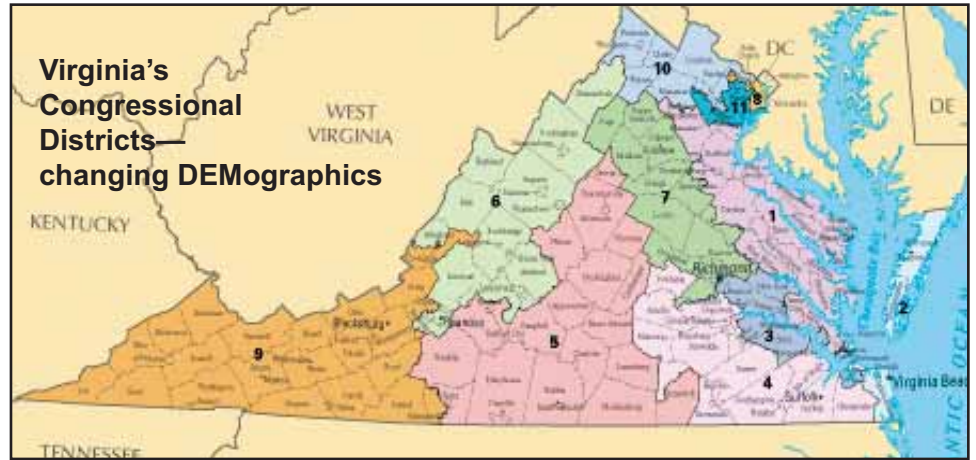
The unprecedented campaign effort in Arlington was grounded in the concern that Arlington might be the entire margin for an Obama win in the state. Two years ago, Jim Webb won election to the U.S. Senate with a statewide margin of just 9,329—but an Arlington margin of 33,821. In 1989, Doug Wilder became the first African-American governor elected in the South since Reconstruction by a margin of 5,300 votes statewide—but 18,300 in Arlington. In other words, without Arlington, neither of those Democrats would have won.

But 2008 was not a repeat. Obama won the state by the stunning margin of 234,527 votes. Arlington provided 49,118 of that margin or 21 percent.

The biggest surprise, however, was in the House of Representatives. In 2001, Virginia Republicans controlled both houses in the General Assembly and were able to gerrymander the state, confining the bulk of Democrats to three ghettos while giving Republicans majorities in the other eight congressional districts. But this year, changing DEMographics bit the GOP in the rear, the sides and the front.

Three of those guaranteed GOP districts swung to the Democrats, giving Dems a 6-5 majority of the House delegation. One of the races is very close and faces a possible recount, but the Democrat is in the lead. Here's a quick look at those races. The accompanying map shows where the districts are located.

In the **Fifth District**, Democratic Tom Perriello appears to have ousted incumbent Virgil Goode. Goode was originally elected as a Democrat, then shifted to independent and finally joined the GOP. So his ouster is especially pleasing for Dems. As of this writing, the count gives Perriello 158,712 votes to 157,967 for Goode. That is a Democratic lead of 745 votes or 0.23 percent. This was a win that had been hoped for, but not expected. Goode has until Dec. 4 to request a recount, but Virginia law limits the scope of recounts so they rarely change the outcome. Perriello



holds a law degree from Yale. He has worked for international non-profits and founded faith-based groups. He asked campaign workers to do time-tithing, giving 10 percent of their campaign hours to community service.

In the **Second District**, Democrat Glenn Nye ousted incumbent Thelma Drake. The district takes in the Eastern Shore, but most of the voters are in Norfolk and Virginia Beach. A lot of money was put into this race from national sources as it was marked as a serious pick-up opportunity. Nye won convincingly with 52.4 percent of the vote. Nye has an unusual biography. As a Foreign Service Officer, Nye volunteered to serve not only in Iraq but also in Kosovo and Afghanistan. In 2001, he received a State Department award for organizing the rescue of 26 U.S. citizens caught behind insurgent lines during fighting in Macedonia.

In the **Eleventh District** just beyond the Beltway, Democrat Gerry Connally took over the seat of retiring Repub Tom Davis. Connally had been expected to win. He faced a relative unknown in Republican Keith Fimian—but what Fimian lacked in name recognition he made up for with a personal fortune. Money didn't talk this time, as Connally walked off with 54.7 percent.

Our own **Eighth District** produced an interesting statistic; Rep. **Jim Moran** got a higher percentage of the vote than any other congressional candidate in the state facing opposition—67.9 percent. In the other two Democratic ghettos created by the Republicans in 2001, Reps. Bobby Scott in the **Third District** (which runs from Richmond to Norfolk, hopping and skipping back and forth across the James River) and **Rick Boucher** in the **Ninth District** had no opposition. The

GOP really cut themselves out of those two districts.

In the other five districts, the incumbent GOP congressmen were all re-elected with totals ranging from 56.6 percent to 62.7 percent—figures that do not give a lot of hope for adding another seat to the Democratic column. In the **Tenth District**, which begins at Arlington's northern border and stretches through Loudoun County to the West Virginia border beyond Winchester, Rep. Frank Wolf was challenged for the second time in a row by Judy Feder. Feder is rated a top campaigner, but so is Wolf; Feder was unable to dent Wolf again, coming up short with 38.8 percent, less than the 41 percent she got two years ago. In the **Seventh District**, Anita Hartke, daughter of the late Sen. Vance Hartke of Indiana, sought to stop Rep. Eric Cantor, but fell short with 37.0 percent. Cantor was elected minority whip after the election, making him the Number Two Republican in the House.

ACDC made a major effort to get voters to cast their ballots early to avoid the long lines that sometimes drive voters away on Election Day. That effort worked. More than 34,000 Arlingtonians voted absentee; that was 31 percent of the votes. One impact of that huge volume is that the precinct-by-precinct counts don't mean anything now. In time, the absentee votes will be redistributed back to their home precincts, but the precinct counts available now cannot be compared with past years.

For results on every election in Virginia, from statewide totals down to your individual precinct, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms and click on the top line that says, "Click here for November 4, 2008, election results."

Fabulous Factoids

from presidential election history

as assembled by **Chris Zimmerman**

Barack Obama got 52.77% of the popular vote

Majorities are hard to earn in Presidential elections. In the previous ten elections, over the forty years from 1968 through 2004:

- The winning candidate earned less than a majority of popular votes four times ('68; '92; '96; '00)
- The average popular vote of the winner was less than 51 percent (50.79%)
- The average popular vote of the Democratic candidate was 44.64; the Democrat exceeded 50 percent only once (Carter '76, 50.08%)

From 1824 through 2004:

- 18 of 46 presidential elections resulted in the election of a president who received less than 50% of the popular vote (that's almost 40% of the time)
- The highest popular vote percentage recorded was 61.05% (Johnson '64)
- Only four candidates have ever reached 60 percent (since popular vote totals were kept beginning 1824), all in the 20th Century – and all but one (Harding '20) were incumbents: Harding '20 (60.32); FDR '36 (60.80); Johnson '64 (61.05); Nixon '72 (60.67)

For non-incumbents, they're even harder. Since FDR there have been eight elections of a non-incumbent president:

- The highest percentage for a non-incumbent was Eisenhower '52, with 55.18%
- Three other non-incumbents achieved narrow majorities: Carter '76 (50.08); Reagan '80 (50.75); Bush '88 (53.37)
- The others (Kennedy '60; Nixon '68; Clinton '92; and Bush '00) were all under 50%.

By contrast, the Electoral College generates big wins:

- In the ten elections 1968 – 2004, the winner averaged 386.4 electors, or 71.8% of the electoral college
- In fact, since the Democratic/Republican two-party split began in 1856, the winner averaged 71.5% of the electoral vote total

• On the other hand, the total fluctuates widely, ranging from a low of 271 (Bush '00) to a high of 525 (Reagan '84) over the '68 – '04 period

• The highest share of the electoral college was 98.5% (FDR '36); the winner broke 90% 6 times in the 36 elections from 1856 – 2004, and exceeded 80% in 14 elections

Fabulous Factoids *of the Presidential Election of 2008*

(Now these are really fabulous)

The Obama Victory – Electoral Milestones

- Highest share of the popular vote in 20 years for any candidate for president
- Highest percentage of the popular vote by a non-incumbent president or vice-president since Eisenhower '52
- First Democrat since 1964 (LBJ) to top 51%
- Highest percentage of the popular vote by a non-incumbent Democrat since 1932 (FDR)
- Second highest percentage of the popular vote by any Democratic nominee since FDR was on the ballot
 - Exceeded only by the Johnson landslide of '64
 - That's 15 presidential elections over 60 years

Also –

- First time since 1964 that the Democratic nominee has carried Virginia and Indiana
- Colorado and North Carolina won for only the second time in 40 years
- First time a Democrat has won any electoral votes in Nebraska in 44 years

Oh, yeah – and he's the first African-American elected President of the United States.

Footnote: Missouri is no longer the bellwether:

- Carried by McCain by about 6,000 votes
- Missouri's electoral votes had gone to the winner in every election since 1904, except 1956