



From the National Director



Since November 5 the Democratic Party leaders have faced a barrage of criticism for failing to develop a coherent

message that would have carried them to victory in the elections. The NCEC agrees that it is hard to argue that a strong, unified attack on the Bush administration's squandering of the treasury surplus, their reestablishment of trickle-down economics and their cover-up of corporate crimes involving their closest supporters would not have been enough to bring out the votes needed to defeat marginal Republican right wing candidates.

But after all the breast beating and hand wringing over our close losses, we must recognize the dramatic sea change in American attitudes since the morning of September 11, 2001 was an important reason that Democrats lost the closest of the Senate and House races.

In 2000 Al Gore won among women voters by a 54 - 43 margin. In 2002, while the votes of men remained about the same as in 2000, women's support for Democratic candidates plunged by

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NCEC Puts the Tough 2002 Losses Behind Them and Prepares for 2004. We Must Stop Right Wing Plans to Ram Through it's Dangerous Agenda.

Official lying has never been so pervasive as it is in the Bush administration. They brazenly lie, without shame and without apology. Then they ram the new lie down the Democrat's throats and, during the last campaign, time and time again, the Democrats retreated.

One of the factors in the defeat of many candidates in November was the Karl Rove strategy of tarring the Democrats as obstructionists on the creation of a Homeland Security Department. Whenever they needed to distract public attention from their economic failures or GOP cronies being caught up in a web of corporate crime, up went the cry of "soft on terrorism" and "failure to protect the homeland."

The Republican 2002 playbook told GOP candidates how to take key seats from

Democrats by repeating over and over again without surcease that the Democrats wanted to privatize Social Security. Now that the Republicans have a Senate majority, Rove is claiming that the voters want privatization because they elected Republicans. It's pathetic. The Democrats failed to expose and decry this lying and deception and they lost.

Now the Bush/Cheney/Rove machine is in full control of the government with Democrats no longer blocking their way in the Senate. They are interpreting the election results as a clear mandate and carte blanche for a regressive push to pack the federal courts with right wing ideologues, provide greater support for religious groups to administer social programs to prepare the ground work for abolishing Roe vs. Wade and to

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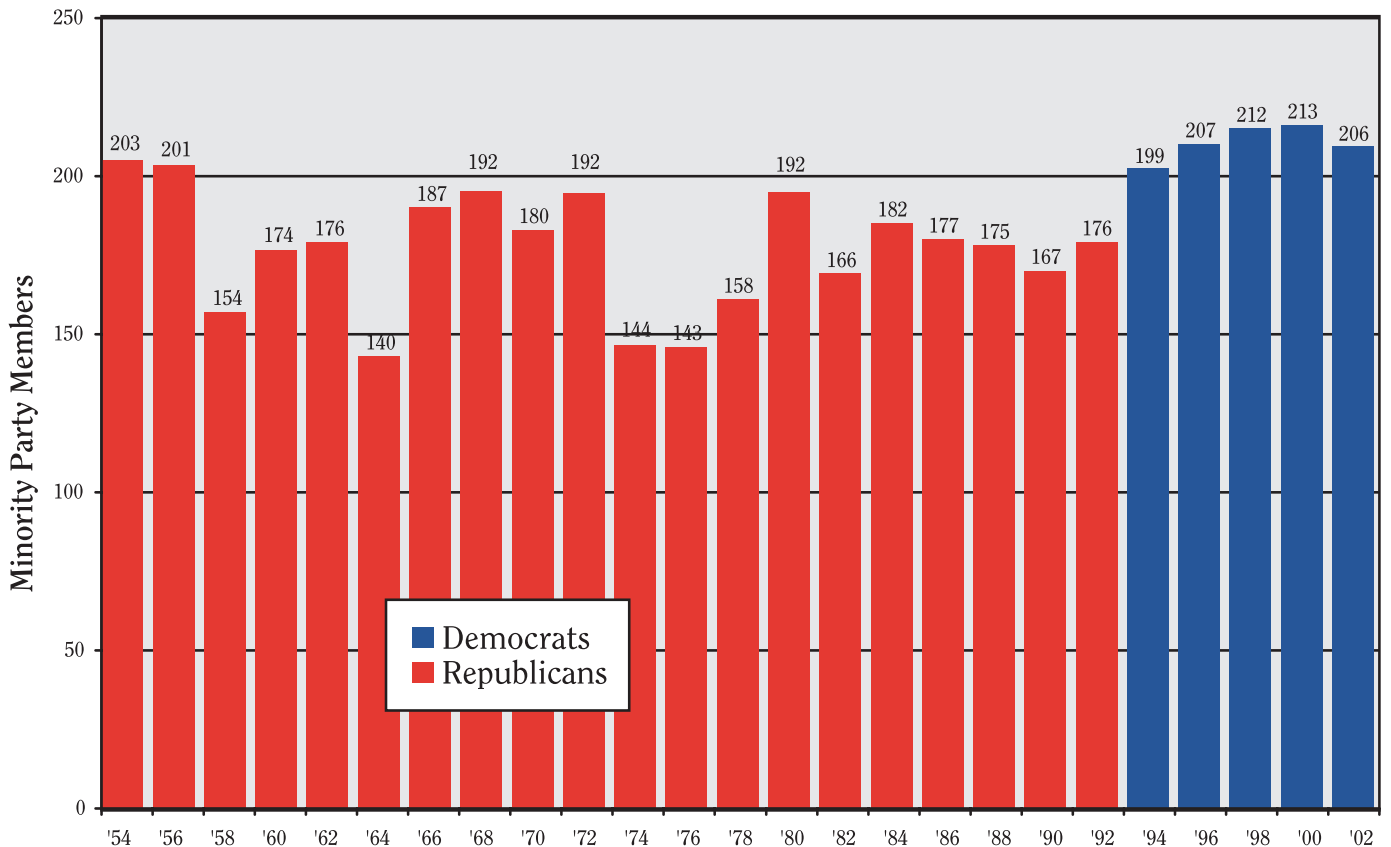
The History of the Division Between the Political Parties in the House of Representatives

In the last decade the American voters and their representatives in the House have been almost evenly divided. The future of the nation, and of constitutional democracy, may depend on our ability to win those close elections which will determine whether the Democrats or Tom Delay's Republicans control the House majority and the legislative agenda.

“When victory is decided by 524 votes everyone involved gets credit. But it was my great good fortune to have The National Committee for an Effective Congress behind me from day one until the polls closed. NCEC’s state of the art precinct-by-precinct electoral and demographic targeting guided every step of the campaign. Their precise get-out-the-vote strategy and voter turnout tracking, implemented by NCEC professional, Tom Bonier, who came to South Dakota, was invaluable. Thank you, NCEC!”

Senator Tim Johnson
South Dakota

Minority Party Strength in the House



The United States is almost evenly divided between Democratic and Republican voters. It is up to us to bring the voters needed to win a Democratic majority.

Outlook for 2004 US Senate Races

Eight of the 19 seats held by Democrats will be closely contested in 2004 while only 2 of 15 Republican held seats presently appear marginal. NCEC started to work immediately after the November elections to regain Democratic majority control of the Senate. Our only hope of blocking the dangerous excesses of this administration is to succeed in this effort.

19 Democratic Senate Races		Democratic Incumbent	1998 Senate Percent	2000 Gore Percent	NCEC Outlook
Arkansas	Blanche Lambert Lincoln	55%	46%	Battleground	
California	Barbara Boxer	53%	53%	Battleground	
Connecticut	Chris Dodd	65%	56%	Likely Democratic	
Florida	Bob Graham	62%	49%	Leans Democratic	
Georgia	Zell Miller	58%	43%	Leans Democratic	
Hawaii	Daniel Inouye	79%	56%	Likely Democratic	
Indiana	Evan Bayh	64%	41%	Likely Democratic	
Louisiana	John Breaux	64%	45%	Likely Democratic	
Maryland	Barbara Mikulski	71%	57%	Likely Democratic	
Nevada	Harry Reid	48%	46%	Battleground	
New York	Chuck Schumer	55%	60%	Likely Democratic	
North Carolina	John Edwards	51%	43%	Battleground	
North Dakota	Byron Dorgan	63%	33%	Battleground	
Oregon	Ron Wyden	61%	47%	Likely Democratic	
South Carolina	Ernest Hollings	53%	41%	Battleground	
South Dakota	Tom Daschle	62%	38%	Battleground	
Vermont	Patrick Leahy	72%	51%	Leans Democratic	
Washington	Patty Murray	58%	50%	Leans Democratic	
Wisconsin	Russell Feingold	51%	48%	Battleground	

15 Republican Senate Races		Republican Incumbent	1998 Senate Percent	2000 Gore Percent	NCEC Outlook
Alabama	Richard Shelby	63%	42%	Likely Republican	
Alaska	Lisa Murkowski	n/a	28%	Likely Republican	
Arizona	John McCain	69%	45%	Likely Republican	
Colorado	Ben Nighthorse Campbell	62%	42%	Likely Republican	
Idaho	Mike Crapo	70%	28%	Likely Republican	
Illinois	Peter Fitzgerald	50%	55%	Battleground	
Iowa	Chuck Grassley	68%	49%	Likely Republican	
Kansas	Sam Brownback	65%	37%	Likely Republican	
Kentucky	Jim Bunning	50%	41%	Leans Republican	
Missouri	Kit Bond	53%	47%	Leans Republican	
New Hampshire	Judd Gregg	68%	47%	Likely Republican	
Ohio	George Voinovich	56%	46%	Leans Republican	
Oklahoma	Don Nickles	66%	38%	Likely Republican	
Pennsylvania	Arlen Specter	61%	51%	Battleground	
Utah	Robert Bennett	64%	26%	Likely Republican	

NCEC's Goal is to Gain a Net of 13 Seats and Send Tom DeLay to the Backbenches.

These are some of the closest of the 2002 House contests which will continue to be marginal in 2004:

Battleground 2004 US House Races

District	Democrat (2002%)	Republican (2002%)
Alabama 3	Joe Turnham (48%)	Mike Rogers (50%)
Arizona 1	George Cordova (46%)	Rick Renzi (49%)
Colorado 7	Mike Feeley (47%)	Bob Beauprez (47%)
Florida 5	KAREN THURMAN (46%)	Virginia Brown-Waite (48%)
Georgia 11	Roger Kahn (48%)	Phil Gingrey (52%)
Georgia 3	Jim Marshall (51%)	Calder Clay (49%)
Indiana 2	Jill Long Thompson (46%)	Chris Chocola (50%)
Indiana 8	Bryan Hartke (46%)	JOHN HOSTETTLER (51%)
Indiana 9	BARON HILL (51%)	Mike Sodrel (46%)
Kansas 3	DENNIS MOORE (50%)	Adam Taff (47%)
Kentucky 3	Jack Conway (48%)	ANNE NORTHUP (52%)
Kentucky 4	KEN LUCAS (51%)	Geoff Davis (47%)
Louisiana 5	Rodney Alexander (50%)	Lee Fletcher (50%)
Maine 2	Michael Michaud (52%)	Kevin Raye (48%)
Maryland 8	Chris Van Hollen (52%)	CONSTANCE MORELLA (48%)
New York 1	Timothy Bishop (50%)	FELIX GRUCCI (49%)
North Dakota 1	EARL POMEROY (52%)	Rick Clayburgh (48%)
Pennsylvania 13	JOSEPH HOEFFEL (51%)	Melissa Brown (47%)
Pennsylvania 17	TIM HOLDEN (51%)	GEORGE GEKAS (49%)
Pennsylvania 6	Dan Wofford (49%)	Jim Gerlach (51%)
Tennessee 4	Lincoln Davis (52%)	Janice Bowling (47%)
Texas 11	CHET EDWARDS (52%)	Ramsey Farley (47%)
Texas 17	CHARLIE STENHOLM (51%)	Rob Beckham (47%)
Texas 23	Henry Cuellar (47%)	HENRY BONILLA (52%)
Utah 2	JIM MATHESON (50%)	John Swallow (49%)
Washington 2	RICK LARSEN (50%)	Norma Smith (46%)

Democratic winner in **blue** , Republican winner in **red** , Incumbents in CAPS

6%. On national defense issues, where women have been significantly more dovish than men, women's support for a national missile defense system soared from 29%, before 9/11/01, to 51% total and to 59% among married women with children.

This shift cut deeply into the heart of the Democratic base.

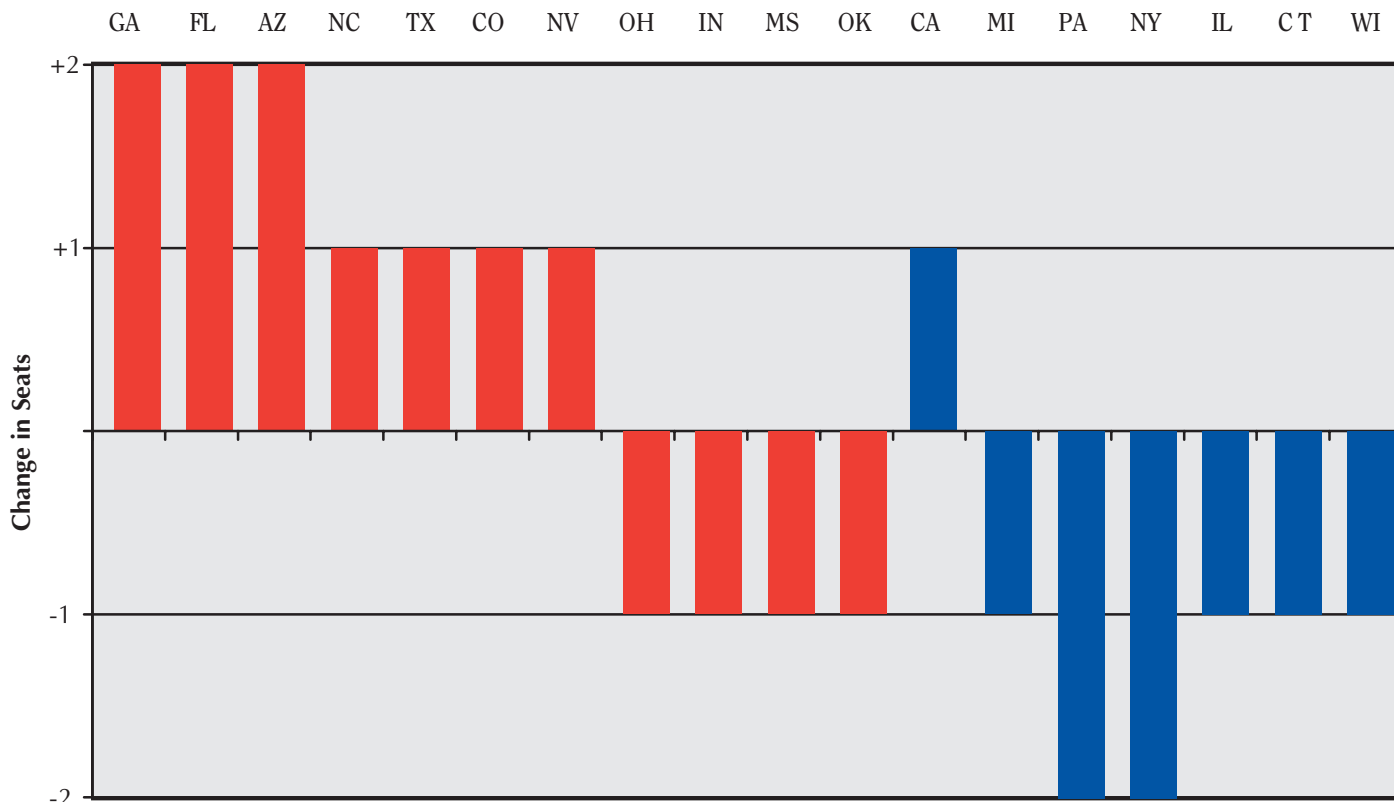
Other polling demonstrates that Bush was able to muddy the waters on the issues of education, prescription drugs and Social Security where Democrats have always had a traditional advantage. The bipartisan Battleground Poll found

that voters trusted Bush more than congressional Democrats on the issue of education and had a strong 17-point advantage on the question of which party was more likely to keep the nation prosperous.

None of these numbers are permanent and, in fact, they are already shifting. Looking back at some of the post-election voter opinion analysis suggests that we were lucky to emerge from the elections with minimal losses. Unfortunately, two Senate losses mean relinquishing our tenuous checks and balances on the regressive right wing Bush machine.

George Bush Gets a Break by Population Shift

The southwestern shift of the US population provides President Bush with an important advantage in 2004. States which were carried by Bush in 2000 have gained 7 congressional districts which translates into 7 electoral votes.



States that George W. Bush carried in 2000 are in red; States that Al Gore carried are in blue.

increase funding for “pro family” initiatives.

Let’s examine this “sweeping 2002 mandate” on the heels of which the Bush administration plans to ride roughshod over our democracy. The GOP added five House seats and two Senate seats. This happened while 121 million out of 200 million Americans of voting age (61%) were so

disenchanted that they chose not to vote at all.

In races for Congress the turnout numbers are even more discouraging: only 35% of voters went to the polls and most voted for the Democrat (16%) or for other parties (2%). Only 17% of eligible American voters supported Republican congressional candidates. Some mandate!

Let Us Never Forget the Money!!

Republicans, as usual, held a big advantage in total dollars raised by all party committees. In many races money gave the GOP the crucial edge. This advantage was gained by the most successful fundraising effort by a sitting president in history. *The Washington Post* reported on October 28 that Bush’s trips to 59 out-of-state events for Republican candidates cost the US taxpayers \$ 15.7 million. An NCEC study showed Bush held events in 32 media markets which made a major difference by solidifying and motivating the Republican base vote as well as raising a record amount of money.

“ I doubt I would have won without the NCEC. Your technical support meant that my resources were used with maximum effectiveness. Your financial support couldn't have been more timely. And your ongoing consulting was top notch and professional. Thank goodness you're on our side.

Representative
Rush Holt
New Jersey ”

