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THE NEWPORT (R.I.) DAILY NEWS

ELECTION 2013

ROUNDUP



Associated Press

Republican New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie celebrates his election victory Tuesday in Asbury Park, N.J., after defeating Democratic challenger Barbara Buono.

Chris Christie re-elected governor of New Jersey

ASBURY PARK, N.J. — Gov. Chris Christie was re-elected with ease Tuesday, demonstrating the kind of broad, bipartisan appeal that will serve as his opening argument should he seek the Republican presidential nomination in 2016.

With 94 percent of precincts reporting, Christie had 60 percent of the vote to Democratic state Sen. Barbara Buono's 39 percent, putting him en route to become the first Republican in a quarter-century to receive more than 50 percent of the New Jersey vote.

This, in a state that President Barack Obama carried a year ago by more than 17 points, his biggest margin in the nation.

"Thank you, New Jersey, for making me the luckiest guy in the world," Christie said in a

victory speech late Tuesday in the shore town of Asbury Park. After a campaign that centered more on his record and personality than his agenda for a second term, he told supporters that he has big plans for education reform and tax cuts, among other issues.

"I did not seek a second term to do small things," he said. "I sought a second term to finish the job. Now watch me do it."

Buono told supporters in her hometown of Metuchen, on the fringes of the New York area, shortly after polls closed that she had called Christie to congratulate him. She noted they had their differences but added, "when it comes down to it, we're just two parents who want to see the best for our children's future."

Voters in Illinois approve gay marriage

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — With Illinois set to become the 15th state nationwide to legalize same-sex marriage, Chicago couple Theresa Volpe and Mercedes Santos finally began planning the wedding they'd started thinking about more than two decades ago.

"From the moment we met and fell in love, the language was, 'If I could marry you I would,'" said Volpe, who is expecting the couple's third child. "We waited a long time for that to happen, to hear ... that we can have that. I think it's really the final stamp on our relationship."

After months of arduous lobbying in President Barack Obama's home state, Illinois lawmakers passed a measure Tuesday that would legalize same-sex marriage. Under the legislation, which Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn has vowed to sign, couples could start tying the knot in June.

Democrat de Blasio elected NYC mayor

NEW YORK — Bill de Blasio was elected New York City's first Democratic mayor in two decades Tuesday, running on an unabashedly liberal, tax-the-rich platform that contrasted sharply with billionaire Michael Bloomberg's record during 12 years in office.

With 21 percent of precincts reporting, De Blasio, the city's public advocate, had 72 percent of the vote compared with 26 percent for Republican Joe Lhota, former chief of the metropolitan area's transit agency.

De Blasio, 52, will take office on Jan. 1 as the 109th mayor of the nation's largest city.

He ran as the anti-Bloomberg, railing against economic inequality and portraying New York as a "tale of two cities" — one rich, the other working class — under the pro-business, pro-development mayor, who made his fortune from the financial information company that bears his name.

"Today you spoke loudly and clearly for a new direction for our city," de Blasio told a roiling crowd of supporters at the YMCA in his home neighborhood of Park Slope, Brooklyn, a far cry from the glitzy Manhattan hotel ballrooms that usually host election night parties.

"We are united in the belief that our city should leave no New Yorker behind," he said. "The people of this city have chosen a progressive path, and tonight we set forth on it together as one city."

Food label initiative trails in Washington

SEATTLE — Washington voters Tuesday were rejecting a measure that would have made the state the first in the nation to require labeling of genetically engineered foods.

With all but one county in Eastern Washington reporting, the measure trailed 45 to 55 percent — a margin that appeared impossible to overcome.

"It does not look good for us," conceded Democratic Sen. Maralyn Chase, a labeling supporter. "But we've won the hearts and the minds of the people."

"It's too close to call," said pro-Initiative 522 campaign manager Delana Jones. "It's going to be a long few days as we continue to count ballots."

◆ Daily News wire reports

CASINO GAMBLING

Voters reject proposals for East Boston, Palmer

BOSTON (AP) — Casino supporters were dealt twin setbacks on Tuesday as voters in East Boston rejected a proposal by the Suffolk Downs race track and voters in Palmer narrowly defeated a bid by Mohegan Sun to build a resort casino in the western Massachusetts town.

The results promised to dramatically alter the casino landscape in Massachusetts, where a 2011 gambling law allows for up to three regional resort casinos.

Voters in Revere approved the Suffolk Downs casino in a separate referendum Tuesday, but favorable votes were needed in both East Boston and Revere before the track could formally apply to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission for a license.

Chip Tuttle, chief operating officer of Suffolk Downs, which straddles East Boston and Revere, thanked voters who supported the project and said in a statement that the track would now "reassess" its plans.

Revere Mayor Dan Rizzo said he would ask Suffolk Downs to reshape the proposal so that the casino would be located

entirely in Revere, but it was unclear if the commission would support such a change. A spokeswoman for commission chairman Stephen Crosby said he was not available for comment Tuesday evening.

Celeste Myers, co-chairwoman of the group No Eastie Casino, said she and the hundreds of volunteers working against the proposal were shocked and elated by their resounding victory.

"I came into the day today bracing myself and talking myself into being content with a modest loss," she said. "I had no reason to expect that we would realize a win, much less a win of this nature. I'm just completely blown away."

Tuttle had said before the vote he was optimistic despite the cloud that was cast when Suffolk Downs recently severed its partnership with Caesar's Entertainment, after the commission raised concerns during its background check of Caesars.

Unofficial returns from East Boston showed casino opponents with 56 percent of the vote, while in Revere, 61 percent of voters said yes.

In Palmer, the town clerk's office said returns showed the casino proposal had been defeated by fewer than 100 votes out of about 5,200 cast Tuesday.

Mitchell Etes, chief executive of the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority, said the company was disappointed with the outcome of the vote as it currently stood, but would seek a recount.

"Because of technical problems with the voting machine in Precinct 2 that are very troubling, we will be asking the Town of Palmer for a hand recount of the ballots in today's election," Etes said in a statement.

Casino opponents like Bill Hayden, who has lived in Palmer since 1990, said the Mohegan Sun development would shatter the town's rural character. He was ecstatic to learn that the project had been defeated.

"We had a very small budget to fight this with," Hayden said. "I think a lot of people in Palmer were planning to vote no but they were keeping quiet about it. They didn't want to be harassed by the casino people."

BALLOT MEASURES

Pot taxes, Astrodome future among issues

Associated Press

Voters across the country faced ballot measures Tuesday ranging from whether to approve seven casinos in New York to the fate of Houston's iconic Astrodome. Here's a look at some of the questions.

Marijuana and alcohol

COLORADO: Voters approved a 25 percent tax on newly legal recreational marijuana to fund school construction. Opponents argued the tax rate would benefit black market sales.

MAINE: Voters in Portland, Maine's largest city, declared victory on a measure to legalize possession of recreational amounts of marijuana.

MICHIGAN: Voters in Ferndale, Jackson and Lansing approved proposals offering some legal protection to users of small amounts of

marijuana.

UTAH: Residents in the small town of Hyde Park are voting on whether to allow beer sales in a proposal that has divided the conservative, mostly Mormon city. Hyde Park is among a handful of dry cities left in the state, and the ordinance would only allow the sale of beer with the alcohol content of 3.2 percent.

Secession

COLORADO: Eleven rural Colorado counties delivered a divided vote on an effort to form a 51st state called North Colorado. Six counties voted against the idea — including Weld County, whose commissioners spearheaded the effort, citing frustration with the Democrat-led state government that they claim neglects rural interests. Five counties voted for it.

Gambling

NEW YORK: New York voters bet big on casino gambling as an economic energy shot, agreeing to let seven Las Vegas-style gaming palaces be built around the state, including eventually in New York City.

Astrodome's future

TEXAS: Voters rejected a plan to authorize bonds to turn the Houston Astrodome, the world's first multipurpose domed stadium, into a giant convention and event center and exhibition space. The outcome means the stadium is likely to be torn down.

Minimum wage

WASHINGTON STATE: Early returns showed voters in the small Seattle suburb of SeaTac were passing a measure that would raise the minimum wage for workers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport

and nearby large hotels to \$15 an hour. Washington state already has the highest minimum wage at \$9.19.

NEW JERSEY: Voters approved a constitutional amendment raising the state's minimum wage by \$1, to \$8.25 an hour, and to provide for automatic cost-of-living increases, as 10 other states already do.

Health and environment

MAINE: Residents of South Portland rejected a proposal aimed at blocking the flow of tar sands oil from western Canada to the city. Environmentalists say the thick, gooey oil is more difficult to clean up than conventional crude oil, contains harmful chemicals and releases more greenhouse gases. Supporters of a pipeline say a ban would hamper the growth of existing petroleum-based businesses.

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You can meet fellow citizens and representatives from the Navy, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, and you can help plan studies and restorations of cleanup sites.

For additional information and our schedule, go to the RAB Internet Web Site at www.rabnewportri.org. Additional information is available at the Navy's Internet Web Site at <http://go.usa.gov/Tsy>.

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