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# GRUNION GAZETTE

LONG BEACH'S FAVORITE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

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## Dems Hold On Here, Measure D Passes

By Harry Saltzgaver  
Executive Editor

Democrat Barbara Boxer held on to her Senate seat Tuesday night, as did Congresswoman Laura Richardson and Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal, while former Gov. Jerry Brown soundly defeated Republican Meg Whitman to return to the governor's office.

The Democratic sweep here belied a Republican landslide in most of the country. The GOP regained control of the House of Representatives, and gained six seats in the U.S. Senate to bust the veto-proof 60-seat Democratic majority there.

In Long Beach, voters approved three local measures while turning back an attempt to eliminate the Civil Service Department and put its responsibilities under the Human Resources Department. That retains an independent approach to hiring city employees.

"I am disappointed that GG didn't pass," said Third District City Councilman Gary DeLong. "It was an opportunity to save money and improve the hiring process. But we'll do the best we can with what the voters have given us."

The local measure that generated the most discussion, despite not having an argument against it in the sample ballot, was Measure D. That measure changes the formula for an annual transfer from the Port of Long Beach

to the city's Tidelands Fund. It also strengthens city control over oil production operations on port property.

City Auditor Laura Doud proposed the change from figuring the maximum transfer as 10% of the port's net profit for a year to 5% of the gross revenue. She and co-author DeLong, along with Mayor Bob Foster, argued that the change was designed mainly to eliminate contention over what was considered a qualified expense when figuring the net profit.

"I'm really pleased that it passed," Doud said. "We at the city appreciate the port's transfer to the Tidelands Fund, and this just makes everything simpler for everyone..."

"We had some concerns with some of the expenses that went into figuring the net profit. Now the harbor can run its operation the way it deems best."

For the last decade, the port has transferred \$12 million to \$15 million a year to the Tidelands Operating Fund. While city officials estimated that the new formula would mean an increase of \$1 million or so, a port analysis said the difference could be up to \$6 million.

In other local questions, an increase in the preference given to military veterans in city hiring passed easily, as did a proposal to tax recreational marijuana sales.

The marijuana question proved mute, though, because the effort to legalize possession of small amounts of marijuana in the state (Proposition 19) failed, 53.8% to 46.2%. That leaves Long Beach with the question of how to deal with medicinal marijuana cooperatives, a question on the City Council's Nov. 9 agenda.

Perhaps the most impressive — or surprising — victory in local races was the victory of Jenny Oropeza in the Senate District 28 race. Oropeza passed away suddenly two weeks ago, but received 45,000 more votes than the Republican challenger.

That result means that there now will be a special election for that seat.

All of the incumbents running to represent portions of the city in the state Assembly were returned to office. Democrat Bonnie Lowenthal, who represents most of Long Beach, defeated Martha Flores-Gibson easily, 56.5% to 43.5%. Warren Furutani had an even easier time in the 55th Assembly District, taking more than 70% of the vote, and Isadore Hall had almost no race at all, getting 88.5% of the ballots cast in the 52nd Assembly District.

Although Republican Star Parker received a lot of attention for her campaign in the 37th Congressional District, she could not overcome the heavily Democratic registration there. Former Long Beach City Councilwoman Laura Richardson won another term easily, 69.2% to Parker's 22.7%. Independent Nicholas Dibs garnered 8.1% of the vote.

Statewide, voters took all of the redistricting duties away from politicians, easily passing Proposition 20 to give an independent panel the job of drawing Congressional District lines while even more soundly defeating Proposition 27, which would have eliminated the independent redistricting commission.

A proposal to increase vehicle license fees to support state parks was rejected soundly, 58% to 42%, but a push to repeal tax breaks for some businesses was rejected by virtually the same margin.

In measures that likely will change the way the state legislature does business, it now will take only a simple majority of both houses to pass a budget instead of the two-thirds majority required in the past. That proposition, 25, received 55% of the vote.

Another issue, Proposition 26, adds that two-thirds requirement for approval of some fees and taxes, and Proposition 22, which prohibits the state from taking money from some funds shared with local governments, received more than 60% of the vote.

Statewide, 43.3% of registered voters cast ballots in the midterm election.

## Election 2010

### Measure GG, Civil Service

Yes 33,325  
 ✓ No 38,903

### Measure B, Marijuana Tax

✓ Yes 57,886  
 No 22,161

### Measure C, Vets Preference

✓ Yes 51,189  
 No 23,813

### Measure D, Port Transfer

✓ Yes 39,135  
 No 31,492

### Prop. 19, Legal Marijuana

Yes 3,359,776  
 ✓ No 3,906,895

### Prop. 20, Redistricting

✓ Yes 4,194,287  
 No 2,667,649

### Prop. 23, Suspend Air Laws

Yes 2,749,066  
 ✓ No 4,341,365

### State Assembly District 54

✓ Lowenthal 57,975  
 Flores-Gibson 44,487

### State Senate District 28

✓ Oropeza 116,007  
 Stammreich 71,022  
 Ruskin 11,790

### Governor

✓ Brown 3,951,607  
 Whitman 3,029,919

### 37th Congressional District

✓ Richardson 69,411  
 Parker 22,841  
 Dibs 8,164

### U.S. Senator

✓ Boxer 3,795,243  
 Fiorina 3,094,338

*\* Results with 100% precincts  
 local, 97% state.*