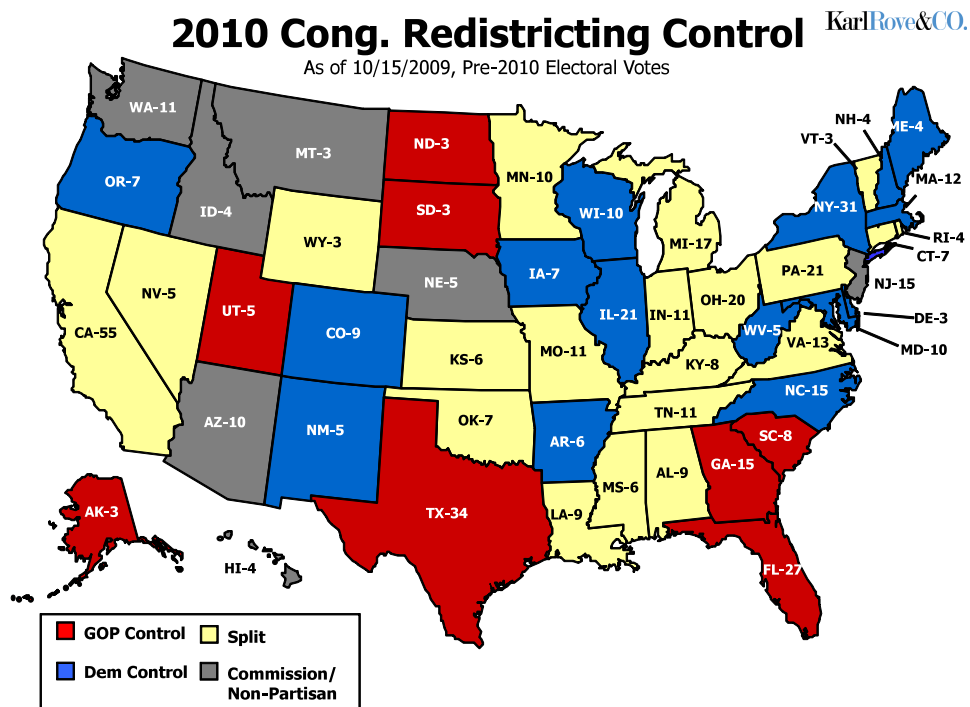


Polling News & Notes

Overlooked Recent Polling and Insights • October 15, 2009

Looking Ahead to Post-2010 Redistricting: Only 8,849 voters turned out in a special election in Tennessee Tuesday night, but it was one of the most significant races so far this year. The victory by Republican Pat Marsh in Tennessee’s House District 62 gave control of the State House back to Republicans, giving them the early edge in next year’s midterm in the Volunteer State and potential control of the state’s redistricting process if they can win the governor’s mansion next year (the GOP already controls the Tennessee Senate). While next fall’s elections will shape the post-2010 redistricting, it’s worth examining how the parties stand today.

In the 43 states where the congressional redistricting process is in partisan hands, Democrats control both houses of the state legislature and the governor’s mansion in 15 states, while Republicans hold 8 states, and 20 states are split between the two parties. Going into 2010, Democrats control redistricting in nearly twice as many states as Republicans, but states where the GOP controls the process—for instance Florida, Texas, and Utah—are also the most likely to be adding congressional seats. And for the first time since it joined the union in 1850, California may not add a congressional seat.



The 2010 elections will alter this redistricting map: 37 states will elect new governors and 36 new state legislatures next fall. That means that every state house race—especially in states like Tennessee, where the legislature is closely-divided—has the potential to have effect on the next decade’s political landscape.

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