



**NCRCO 2014
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President: Cindy Bobbitt
Grant County Commissioner
Oklahoma

Vice President: Don Rosier
Jefferson County Commissioner
Colorado

Secretary: Beryl Amedee
Terrebonne Parrish Councilwoman
Louisiana

Treasurer: Joe Briggs
Cascade County Commissioner
Montana

Immed. Past President: Christian Leinbach
County of Berks Commissioner
Pennsylvania

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 1: Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh
Merrimack County Commissioner, NH

Region 2: Terence Farrell
Chester County Commissioner, PA

Region 3: Jason Williams
Gaston County Commissioner, NC

Region 4: Ray Valdes
Seminole County Tax Collector, FL

Region 5: Gary Moore
Boone County Judge/Executive, KY

Region 6: Kent Ward
Hamilton County Surveyor, IN

Region 7: Dave Sellie
Burke County Commissioner, ND

Region 8: Robert Boyd
Riley County Commissioner, KS

Region 9: Jon Burrows
Bell County Judge, TX

Region 10: Nancy N. Sharpe
Arapahoe County Commissioner, CO

Region 11: Greg Chilcott
Ravalli County Commissioner, MT

Region 12: Chad A. Roche, MBA, CPM, CCM
Pinal County Clerk of the Superior Court, AZ

President's Letter



Republicans to Rally the 114th Congress

Republicans are set to control both chambers of Congress for at least the next two years!

The 2014 midterms have given House Republicans their largest majority since the 1946 elections when they controlled 246 seats. President Obama has lost nearly 70 seats in the U.S. House since taking office and more seats in midterm elections than any President since Harry Truman.

Republicans gained control of the Senate for the first time since 2006, picking up seats in Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, North Carolina, South Dakota and West Virginia.

On January 3, 2015, the 114th Congress will inaugurate a new group of Freshman Senators and Representatives, which means nearly half of Congress will have been elected in November 2010 or later. With that comes the fact that most of the new Congress do not fully understand how counties function. Therefore, we as elected county officials will need to be educating our own Senators and Representatives about the importance of county government, what it is that we actually do as county officials, what counties own including our infrastructure, as well as how we are funded! Seventy-nine former county officials will serve in the 114th Congress, seven of the sixteen are Republican in the Senate and thirty-one of the sixty-three are Republican in the House.

A Republican-led Senate also means that Senate Democrats will lose their committee chairs starting in January. Retirements and incumbent losses in the midterms will also shake up a number of committees that have jurisdiction over key legislative issues to counties, including transportation and tax policy. One of the most significant changes will occur to the Environment and Public Works Committee, which will be chaired by Senator Jim Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) with Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) serving as the ranking Democrat.

(Continued on Page 2)

A new Republican majority will also look to block the Administration from moving forward with its regulatory Agenda next year. A key issue for counties continues to be the proposed rule on "Waters of the U.S." which was released by the EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on April 21, 2014. NCRCO, through our Issues Committee, and NACo have raised concerns over the scope of the proposal, including its potential impact on county owned and maintained public safety infrastructure and has called on the federal government to withdraw the proposal until further analysis has been completed.

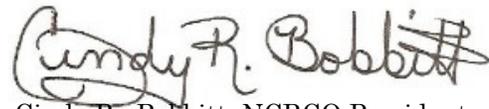
The 114th Congress is expected to move forward with a vigorous agenda and focus on the budget, tax and entitlement reform, and long-term funding for federal transportation programs. However, it's important to note that even though Republicans took the Senate in the midterms, their majority is not nearly large enough to bypass the Democrats (unless they use reconciliation). Reconciliation is a legislative process used by Congress – primarily with budget bills – that limits debate and allows for passage with a simple majority. However, there are several procedural restrictions that apply to reconciliation bills that may interfere with Republicans' ability to utilize this process.

In 2016 thirty-four Senate seats will be up for election and twenty-four of those are currently held by Republicans. Consequently, Republicans will need to look at not only maintaining these twenty-four seats but at gaining those additional ten seats held by Democrats in 2016.

In closing, I should like to quote the words of the great Ronald Reagan, "While I take inspiration from the past, like most Americans, I live for the future."

Therefore, may the future of counties with Republican leadership be fruitful for all Americans! I look forward to seeing each of you in Washington D.C. at the NCRCO Business meeting on Monday, February 23 at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy R. Bobbitt, NCRCO President

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NCRCO - National Conference of Republican County Officials



Sign up for Facebook today and connect
with other NCRCO members.

No Is Not A Solution

By Christian Y. Leinbach, Immediate Past President NCRCO
Chair, Berks County Commissioner, PA

No is a necessary word in the English language. Parents and children alike understand that no provides clear direction and that sometimes we all need to hear the word no. No, this is a bad idea. No, we do not have enough money to do this...no, this simply is the wrong way to act or to treat others. No clearly has a place and we probably need to use it more often especially when it comes to personal decisions.

However, no is not a solution in and of itself especially when it comes to our role as elected officials. While there are situations where simply saying no to a spending issue or a bad policy is acceptable and right, often the answer is not that simple. As leaders in county government, we know that all too well. We have a core role in problem solving. While we often say no to a specific solution we are constantly working with our county team to provide solutions to the problems we face. These problems can range from bridges, to airports, spending to revenue or even unanticipated natural or man-made disasters. At the end of the day, the public expects us to provide solutions, not simply say no I oppose this plan or that approach. The public response to that is "ok we know what you oppose, so how do you propose to address this problem?" I believe we are obligated to provide an answer with real solutions.

As conservatives we too often seem to be on defense and our main form of defense seems to be a firm and clear no. Let me suggest that instead of being leaders of the party of No, that rather we become a party of common sense with conservative and constitutional positive solutions.

Let me suggest the following approach;

1. When faced with a challenge, ask the hard questions. Is this a real problem? Does the government have a legitimate constitutional role to play? If we do, what is that role and what is the financial cost?
2. Answer the problem with a commitment to work to find a solution that respects the proper role of government and the limited resources available to you.
3. After doing the work necessary to provide the solution, explain why you are supporting a certain solution.

The public is looking for leaders that are thoughtful, innovative and action orientated. If we do the hard work, know what we believe in detail, and are willing and able to explain it, the public will begin to realize that we take our public service seriously and truly care about providing solid solutions... And by the way, if the public realizes we are focused on solutions and not simply saying no, when we do need to say no it is likely to be respected, because sometimes no is the right answer and the correct solution.

Membership Committee News

By Beryl Amedee, NCRCO Secretary and Chair, Membership Committee
Terrebonne Parrish Councilwoman, LA

Membership Committee Report

The Membership and Newsletter Committees are working together to offer NCRCO members the convenience of being able to join NCRCO and renew our Dues online with just a few clicks! Dues of \$30 renew annually on January 1st. Make use of the link in this newsletter or on our Facebook page so that you can avoid long lines at our upcoming Legislative Conference meeting and reception. Remember to invite your fellow Republican county officials and encourage them to be involved with NCRCO! Through the internet and social media, it's never been easier!

See ya in DC!
Beryl Amedee
Membership Committee Chairwoman

Minutes – July, 2014 Meeting

By Cindy Bobbitt, NCRCO Secretary – 2013/14
Grant County Commissioner, OK

The National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) Annual business meeting was held Sunday, July 14, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA.

President Christian Leinbach called the meeting to order and Greg Chilcott gave us a prayer. Stan Bateman led the Pledge to the Flag.

Members in attendance signed in at the door as follows:

Officers present:

President – Christian Leinbach (PA)
Vice President – Don Rosier (CO)
Secretary – Cindy Bobbitt (OK)
Treasurer – Joe Briggs (MT)
Past President – Ray Valdes (FL)

Officers absent: None

Directors present:

Region 1 – Bill Doherty (MA)
Region 2 – Terence Farrell (PA)
Region 3 – Joe Carpenter (NC)
Region 6 – Kent Ward (IN)
Region 9 – Jon Burrows (TX)
Region 11 – Greg Chilcott (MT)
Region 12 – Michael Jeanes (AZ)

Directors absent:

Region 4 – Dennis Hollingsworth (FL)
Region 5 – Gary Moore (KY)
Region 7 – Dave Sellie (ND)
Region 8 – Stephen Holt (MO)
Region 10 – Nancy Sharpe (CO)

NACo Staff Liaison:

Mike Belarmino

Members present:

Beryl Amedee (LA)
Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (NH)
Bill Barron (MT)
Stan Bateman (AL)

Members present (Continued):

Mike Bobbitt (OK)
Robert Boyd (KS)
Joe Bryan (NC)
Kenny Burgess (LA)
Darin Bushman (UT)
Dick Cecil (DE)
George Cole (DE)
Kevin Corbin (NC)
Gordon Cruickshank (ID)
Chris Cushing (DC)
Demar Dahl (NV)
Bryan Desloge (FL)
Richard Dunbar (MT)
Lew Gaiter III (CO)
James Hanning (OK)
Jeff Haste (PA)
Carol Holden (NH)
Timothy Karan (NC)
Steve Keen (NC)
Charles Kenner (KY)
John Martin (CO)
Fred McClure (NC)
Rick Miller (WA)
Shawn Milne (UT)
John Ostlund (MT)
Tommy Roedell (OK)
Shawn Sant (WA)
Carl Seilstad (MT)

Guests in attendance:

16 total

Secretary Bobbitt presented the minutes (printed in the May newsletter and with printed copies provided) from the Legislative Conference meeting held March 4, 2014 in Washington D.C. D. Cecil moved to approve the minutes as presented, second by D. Rosier. Motion carried.

Treasurer Briggs distributed copies of the financial report from January 1 to July 10 with a balance of \$7,834.80. Pending accounts payable for this annual conference is estimated at \$2,150 with pending account receivable of \$1,500 from Devnet for a sponsorship. G. Chilcott moved to accept the financial report as presented, second by C. Holden. Motion carried.

Treasurer Briggs distributed copies of the Fiscal Year 2015 budget with revenue estimated at \$9,475 and expenses at \$6,630, showing a net budgeted gain of \$2,845. G. Cruickshank moved to approve the budget as presented, second by J. Burrows. Motion carried.

The “Republican County Official of the Year” award was presented to Christian Leinbach and Carol Holden by D. Cecil on behalf of the Annual Achievement Award Committee.

R. Valdes presented the Audit report showing a clean assessment with an outstanding job being done by J. Briggs. R. Valdes moved to approve, second by T. Roedell. Motion carried.

D. Rosier gave a brief Hospitality Committee report that the NCRCO reception with refreshments and a cash bar would immediately follow this business meeting. He noted that Louisiana State Senator Elbert L. Guillory will be the guest speaker.

There was no Issues Committee report due to Chair Gary Moore being absent.

B. Amedee reported we have 7 new members along with 9 members renewing their membership today. Door prizes were given to Shawn Milne for being a new member, to Stan Bateman for renewing his membership, and a Ladies Gift to Jennifer Leinbach.

Regional Director Reports were in the May newsletter. Region 1 Director B. Doherty was recognized as retiring from office in December, 2014. This is his last NCRCO meeting.

R. Valdes reported that the Nominating Committee met via conference call to recommend the following slate for NCRCO Officers and Regional Directors:

President – Cindy Bobbitt (OK)
Vice President – Don Rosier (CO)
Treasurer – Joe Briggs (MT)
Secretary – Beryl Amedee (LA)
Past President – Christian Leinbach (PA)
Region 1 – Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh (NH)
Region 2 – Terence Farrell (PA)
Region 3 – Jason Williams (NC)
Region 4 – Ray Valdes (FL)

Region 5 – Gary Moore (KY)
Region 6 – Kent Ward (IN)
Region 7 – Dave Sellie (ND)
Region 8 – Robert Boyd (KS)
Region 9 – Jon Burrows (TX)
Region 10 – Nancy Sharpe (CO)
Region 11 – Greg Chilcott (MT)
Region 12 – Open (due to Greg Cox (CA) being elected to another office)

J. Carpenter moved to accept the slate of NCRCO Officers and Regional Directors as presented, second by J. Hanning. J. Haste moved that nominations cease and all named be elected by acclamation, second by J. Carpenter. Motion carried.

Swearing in of officers and regional directors will take place in the NCRCO Reception that will immediately follow this meeting.

Under New Business, special thanks were given to R. Valdes for his historical knowledge of this organization and his experience and effort to keep NCRCO viable and moving forward. Also for his formatting, editing and emailing the NCRCO newsletters to the membership.

Bryan Desloge spoke briefly about his platform as a candidate for NACo Second Vice-President. Allen Angel was in attendance but had to leave; he is also a candidate for NACo Second Vice-President.

Mike Belarmino, our NACo Staff Liaison, was recognized and thanked for his service. He reported that NACo has now assigned Tom Wolfe to replace him as the NCRCO Liaison following this meeting.

R. Boyd moved to adjourn at 6:30 p.m., second by S. Bateman. Motion carried.



Secretary's Report

By Beryl Amedee, NCRCO Secretary
Terrebonne Parrish Councilwoman, LA

The NCRCO Board met by conference call twice this fall. Here are the highlights:

President Cindy Bobbitt presented objectives for 2015, inspiring us to use influence and our reputations to support our Republican philosophies.

Due to "cost of doing business", the Board voted to increase our modest annual NCRCO calendar year Dues slightly to a still modest \$30 per year beginning January 1, 2015. However, we will now offer "click to pay" convenience with the ability to join NCRCO and renew our membership online.

Sought after Republican leaders are being selected and invited to address us this year at the Legislative Conference in Washington, DC and at the Annual Conference in North Carolina. Registration is now open for the Legislative Conference. Don't miss out!

Beryl Amedee
NCRCO Secretary

Treasurer's Report

By Joe Briggs, NCRCO Treasurer and Chair, Issues Committee
Cascade County Commissioner, MT

New Year is a time of resolutions and renewal. We dust off the old year and start fresh once again. As Republicans we are energized by the positive results of the November 2014 Elections. Now we need to resolve to continue working for future Republican election gains. Your membership in the National Conference of Republican County Officials is one of the easiest ways to show your continued commitment to communicate and participate in the Republican Ideals of limited government, self-reliance and personal responsibility.

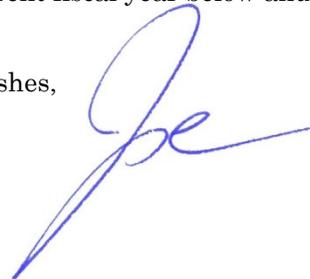
Your membership Dues in NCRCO is based on the calendar year and as such all of us now need to pay our 2015 Dues of \$30. Historically we collect 90% of our dues at the NACo Legislative Conference and Annual Conference. That tends to create quite a bottleneck of our members trying to get into the meetings and receptions, while filling in the Dues form, a name tag, and paying their Dues at the same time. Last year, instead of that last minute flurry of activity, we were successful in encouraging many members to pay their Dues in advance. We are expanding that opportunity this year.

You will shortly be receiving an email or a mailing from us asking you to update your contact information and send in your \$30 Dues check. But, you do not even have to use snail mail to send your check this year. We can now accept your Dues payment on line through PayPal. You can access this new service from our NCRCO website at NCRCO.org, or via our [Facebook page](#).

Your cooperation in this matter will allow us to have your name tags ready in advance so that all you will need to do to get into the reception is identify yourself, grab your name tag and proceed to the refreshments.

Please remember that the reception is for members and paid guests only. You will not be granted admittance unless you are current on your Dues. Each paid member may bring one guest with them to the reception at a reduced rate of \$20 for the guest. Like your Dues, we would ask that you prepay for your guest either by mail or by using the online payment system. Thank you for your past support and I look forward to seeing you in February. I have included a simplified financial statement for the current fiscal year below and would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Best Wishes,



Simplified Financial Report for FY 2014-2015

Description	Revenue	Expenses	Balance
Starting Balance as of August 1, 2014			\$9,898.75
Dues	\$0.00		\$9,898.75
Reception guest Income	\$0.00		\$9,898.75
Donations	\$0.00		\$9,898.75
2014 NACO Annual Conference Expenses:		\$2,261.36	\$7,637.39
Balance as of December 10, 2014			\$7,637.39

Want to know more about NCRCO?

THE BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP

- Opportunity for participation on a national Republican organization committee, to serve as a Committee Chair, a multi-state Regional Director, or as an Officer.
- If your performance in county office has been exemplary, to become a candidate for our annual “Republican County Official of the Year” achievement award.
- To network with Republican peers from throughout the United States at our semi-annual meetings.
- To receive the informative semi-annual NCRCO newsletters “GOP Courier”.
- Our NCRCO elected President is invited to attend the Republican National Committee (RNC) meetings.
- No charge for attendance to our twice a year social receptions with wonderful hors d’oeuvres and special national scene Republican speakers.
- Historically our NCRCO President is scheduled to address the Republican National Convention (in non-prime time) when it convenes.
- To communicate with our liaison in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs (in the West Wing).
- An NCRCO membership card, logo lapel pin, Conference identity ribbons, and voting rights at all called meetings.
- We have face-to-face contact at our semi-annual meetings, which are forums for discussion, and consistently communicate through newsletters, emails, telephone conference calls, and other viable means.
- NCRCO members exchange information with their counterparts across the country, learn diverse and differing methodologies, and open their thought process to new techniques.
- Receive “Talking Points” on national Republican initiatives, describing their effect, and updates on behind-the-scenes Republican news.



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS

Membership Reply Form

YES, I want to be an active participant in the National Conference of Republican County Officials (NCRCO) and help support the programs that will benefit all local elected and appointed Republicans. Enclosed is my membership fee of \$30 for my 2015 dues. Please complete the following information and send your reply form along with your check for \$30 payable to:

**The National Conference of Republican County Officials
NCRCO Treasurer, Joe Briggs, 5900 Western Drive, Great Falls MT 59404**

NAME _____	Title _____
Address _____	County _____
_____	Office Phone _____
City, ST, Zip _____	Fax Number _____
Email _____	Home/Cell _____

Contributions to the National Conference of Republican County Officials are not deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes.

Issues Committee Report

By Joe Briggs, NCRCO Treasurer and Chair, Issues Committee
Cascade County Commissioner, MT

Issues Committee Report

During 2014, the Issues Committee worked primarily on the Waters of the US debate, which deals with the EPA's effort to drastically expand the definition of waters covered by the Federal Clean Water Act. As you know, NACo also made this a priority issue and counties all across the country are joined in this fight.

We would like to thank our members who become engaged by sending formal comments to the EPA and Corps of Engineers, talking to their Federal Delegation, passing resolutions in opposition to this power grab, and in general raising the aspects of this issue to the public. This fight is far from over, we know NCRCO will need to remain engaged on this issue in 2015.

At the Legislative Conference, our membership will be asked to determine the NCRCO Issue Committee's priorities for the upcoming year. Among the issues being presented for us to consider are:

- Keystone Pipeline
- Energy Independence
- Immigration Reform
- National Defense and Nuclear Defense Posture
- New EPA Clean Air Regulation

This list is by no means complete; it simply contains those items currently being looked at for inclusion in our 2015 priorities. If you would like to see something added for consideration, please email me at jbriggs@briggscom.com.

Region 1 Report

By Bronwyn Asplund-Walsh, Merrimack County Commissioners, NH

In Massachusetts, Charley Baker will be sworn in as the new Republican Governor and Vinny Demacedo, also a Republican, ran successfully for the State Senate seat for Plymouth and Cape Cod held by the retiring Senate President Terry Murray, defeating a very liberal Democrat to do it.

In New Hampshire, Walt Haverstein, a Republican, even in defeat, got 47% of the vote for Governor. Jeanne Shaheen, a Democrat, was reelected in a tight race with Scott Brown for the US Senate. The Republicans regained control of the NH State House and retained control of the State Senate. Maine also retained their Republican Governor. The Republicans made a decent showing at the polls in spite of the efforts by the Democrats.



Region 2 Report

By Terence Farrell, Chester County Commissioner, PA

As a follow-up to my last regional update, I am happy to announce that my fellow Chester County Commissioner, Ryan Costello, won his bid to represent Pennsylvania's 6th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives and will be heading off to serve in Washington at the beginning of 2015.

Ryan ran his campaign on the tenets of conciliation and cooperation. In an interview with a local newspaper, he said: "I view my election as a very serious obligation to be a voice for this region. I want to instill in people a confidence in me, regardless of whether they agree with any particular vote I take or not." Ryan has also pushed for implementing policies that will stimulate the economy, grow jobs, and restore fiscal responsibility to Washington.

In a statement that Ryan read at his final Commissioners' Meeting on December 8th, 2014, he stated that he "will miss it greatly, [has] enjoyed it immensely, and will consider [himself] lucky to have had the opportunity" to serve as a County Commissioner.

Ryan's election to Congress will be advantageous to all Republican county officials. Through his first-hand experience in dealing with oppressive unfunded mandates, he will be fully aware of the consequences that federal legislation can have on state and local governments. Please join me in congratulating our colleague for his recent election victory and wishing him luck in his future endeavors!

Region 3 Report

By Jason Williams, Gaston County Commissioner, NC

Region 3 certainly came through in the clutch on election night!

Fueled by increasing unemployment, dissatisfaction with Obamacare, and overall frustration towards Democratic inaction in the federal government, the GOP nabbed Democratic Senate seats in both North Carolina and West Virginia to gain their first Senate majority since 2006. Unfortunately, Ed Gillespie lost in an extremely tight race against incumbent Mark Warner in Virginia for that US Senate seat.

The biggest surprises of the night came in North Carolina, where the Republican, Thom Tillis, came from behind to beat incumbent Senator Kay Hagan, paving the way for a Republican landslide victory on November 4th.

Also, in NC we are battling a federal court ruling that smacks of judicial overreach. In 2012, North Carolinians, in a bipartisan effort, overwhelmingly voted to define marriage between a man and a woman. Sadly a federal court judge has shot down the will of the people and deemed the amendment unconstitutional. We are hoping to appeal the decision and get a ruling from the US Supreme Court.

Regardless of where you stand on the issue of traditional marriage, we cannot allow judges to overturn the will of the people. We cannot sit idly by and continue to watch our liberties erode right before our eyes!

Region 4 Report

By Ray Valdes, Seminole County Tax Collector, FL

FLORIDA:

As this NCRCO newsletter goes to print, Florida is making headlines again!! We have received personal confirmation that former Florida Governor Jeb Bush will explore a run for US President in 2016. Floridians were extremely satisfied with his positive impact as Governor. His name recognition, ability to raise money, speak fluent Spanish, being married to a Spanish lady, and nationwide contacts immediately make him the Republican Primary frontrunner to take on Hillary Clinton in the 2016 race for the White House.

So what does his Florida base look like? In the NUMBER ONE target state for the Democrats to win a governorship, incumbent Republican Governor Rick Scott was the winner on November 4th defeating prior Republican Governor, then Independent Candidate, now Democrat Charlie Crist by making gains in the Hispanic community vote. Did you read that in 2015 we will have 31 Republican Governors, a net gain of 2?

All 3 Florida State Cabinet Officer positions were successfully defended with all 3 incumbents winning by comfortable margins. Did you know there are 458,000 more registered to vote Democrats (total 4,646,300) than Republicans (4,188,300) in Florida? Democrats overwhelmingly control 3 Southeast Florida counties (out of 67).

Of our 27 US House of Representatives in Florida, we defeated 2 incumbent Democrats (in Democrat majority districts) and lost 1 good incumbent Republican (in a Democrat district), for a net gain of one, taking our total to 18 Republican Congressmen and women (67% of delegation).

In the Legislature, we increased the Republican count in the State Senate and the State House to a TWO-THIRDS Majority in each. Did you know that in the US we have 49 State Senates and 49 State Houses and 1 unicameral legislature (Nebraska)? When the final votes from November 4th were tallied, Republicans gained control of 69 of the 99 legislative bodies. An unprecedented in history 70%.

GEORGIA:

Republican David Perdue defeated Democrat Michelle Nunn in the US Senate race 53% to 45%. Michelle Nunn is the daughter of long serving former popular Democrat US Senator, Sam Nunn.

In the gubernatorial race, Nathan Deal defeated Jason Carter 53% to 45%. Jason Carter is the grandson of former Democrat President Jimmy Carter. In the race for Lieutenant Governor, Republican incumbent Casey Cagle won re-election against Democrat Connie Stokes 58% to 42%.

The Republican Party gained one Georgia seat in the US House of Representatives. The Republican Party now controls 10 out of the 14 congressional seats from Georgia (71%).

In the race for Attorney General, incumbent Republican Samuel Olens defeated Democrat Greg Hect 57% to 43%. Secretary of State, incumbent Republican Brian Kemp defeated Democrat Doreen Carter 58% to 43%.

There was no change in the makeup of the Georgia State Senate, which was a good thing. The Republicans control the State Senate with 38 seats (68%) to the Democrats 18 seats. In the Georgia State House, the Republican Party gained two seats from 118 to 120 seats, (67%). The Democrats lost one seat and went from 60 to 59 seats.

SOUTH CAROLINA

South Carolina remained a solid Republican "red" state with Republican Governor Nikki Haley leading the parade with 56% of the statewide vote. The Republican Lt. Governor McMaster, Secretary of State Hammond, State Treasurer Loftis, Attorney General Wilson, and every other state officer won with 58% or more of the vote.

US Senator Lindsey Graham was successful with 54%, and Tim Scott won the unexpired other US Senate seat with 61%. Republicans retained 6 of the total 7 US House of Representatives seats comfortably.

Region 9 Report

By Jon Burrows, Bell County Judge, TX

ARKANSAS:

Arkansas had a great mid-term election. Republican Tom Cotton defeated incumbent Democrat Mark Pryor for the US Senate seat by 57% to 39%. Republican Asa Hutchison beat the Democrat opponent by 56% to 41%, taking the office of Governor away from the Democrats.

In an earlier Special Election, Republican John Cooper won the State Senate District 21 seat. This is a district seat that has previously been solid Democrat and is indicative of the further changing of the political tide in Arkansas.

LOUISIANA:

A great time was had in New Orleans last July 11-14 when NACo held its Annual Conference there. An outstanding convention party was held at the Morial Convention Center, complete with a Marti Gras Parade.

Louisiana had an even greater celebration when Democrat incumbent US Senator Mary Landrieu was defeated by Republican Bill Cassidy by 56% to 44% in the December 6th Runoff, giving the Republican Party its 54th Senate Seat for 2015.

OKLAHOMA:

The Republican Party continues to be a powerhouse in Oklahoma. Again, in 2014 Republicans won every Congressional seat and expanded its majority in the Senate from 36-12 to 40-8. The Republican Party kept its majority in the House at 72-29. Republican voter registration is at an all-time high.

Earlier this year, Republican US Senator Tom Coburn announced he would be leaving office in December 2014, two years before his term ends. In the Special Election to complete the term, Republican James Lankford was elected with 67.9% of the vote. In the Regular Election, Republican US Senator Jim Inhofe was re-elected with 68% of the vote.

In the Governor's race, Republican Incumbent Mary Fallin was re-elected with 55.8% of the vote to her Democrat opponent's 41%. It was another good year for the Republican Party in Oklahoma.

TEXAS:

March 4th was a busy day in the Republican Primary in Texas with open seats for Governor, Attorney General, Comptroller, Land Commissioner, and Agriculture Commissioner, plus contested races for US Senator John Cornyn's seat and for Lieutenant Governor. All of those have been held by Republicans for several elections. After the Primary, the Party made a concerted effort to continue its dominance on the General Election ballot, and it succeeded. Once again, all statewide offices in Texas are held by Republicans.

In the much publicized Governor's race, Attorney General Greg Abbott had a resounding victory over State Senator Wendy Davis. Governor-Elect Abbott won with over 59%. Despite the national attention and money flowing into Senator Davis' campaign, she failed to achieve even 39% of the vote. (As State GOP Chair Steve Munisteri was quoted as saying, "In political terms, this translated into a complete blowout.")

Texas considers itself among the strongest Republican states in the nation. Every statewide elected office and majorities in the state senate, state house and on the state board of education are held by Republicans.

In the past six years, the Republican majority in the State House has increased from 76-74 to 98-52; statewide ticket results increased from an average of 52.94% to 59.39%; and the state's 5200 offices around the state has grown from 43% Republican to approximately 62%

All Region 9 states were Red States in the presidential elections of 2000, 2004, 2008, and 2012. Based on the 2014 election results, expectations are high for each state's Republican Party in the elections of 2016.



LEGISLATIVE MEETING – WASHINGTON, DC

Potential Guest Speakers – NCRCO Meeting

NCRCO Business Meeting will be Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:00 to 6:00 pm, in Roosevelt 1 (Exhibition Level) NCRCO Reception immediately following at 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, in Roosevelt 2.

Reception is complimentary (paid from Dues), and guest tickets are \$20 each.

Judge Gary Moore, NCRCO Regional 5 Director, has extended invitations to Senator Mitch McConnell and Senator Rand Paul to speak at the NCRCO Reception in Washington D.C. on Monday, February 23, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Addison Mitchell "Mitch" McConnell, Jr. is the senior United States Senator from Kentucky. A member of the Republican Party, he has been the Minority Leader of the Senate since January 3, 2007. Following the 2014 Senate elections, he is set to become the Senate Majority leader. He is the 15th Senate Republican Leader and the second Kentuckian to lead his party in the Senate. He is also the longest serving U.S. Senator in Kentucky history. Currently he is the 7th most-senior Senator, as well as the 4th most senior Republican member.

Randal Howard "Rand" Paul is an American politician and a former ophthalmologist who serves as the junior United States Senator for Kentucky, in office since 2011. He is a member of the Republican Party and the son of former U.S. Representative and presidential candidate Ron Paul of Texas. U.S. Senator Rand Paul recently announced his candidacy for re-election in 2016. Paul is also seriously considering a bid for the Republican Presidential nomination in 2016.

Never in our history has there been a greater need for wise, courageous and enlightened leadership than at the present. Therefore, we are hopeful that at least one of these fine Senators will be able to address our assembly during the Legislative meeting in Washington D.C.



Another invitee to the NCRCO Reception is Senator Kelly Ann Ayotte, the junior United States Senator from New Hampshire, serving since 2011. As of 2013, she is the only Republican in New Hampshire's four-member congressional delegation. She is also the youngest of the 20 female US Senators, and the seventh-youngest overall.

In 2010, Senator Ayotte made her first bid for public office, was elected to the U.S. Senate receiving 60 percent of the vote, and officially began serving as US Senator of New Hampshire in January, 2011. Serving on the Senate's Armed Services, Budget, Commerce and Small Business Committees, Ayotte is also the ranking member, among Senate Republicans on the Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support.

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