

TO: Interested Parties  
FR: DSCC Chairman Robert Menendez  
DT: October 25, 2010  
RE: Early Vote Data

This cycle has not lacked for polling, prognosticating, and predictions. Republicans have turned themselves into meteorologists forecasting dark storm clouds, tidal waves, and tsunamis. But like the weather, politics can be difficult to predict.

In fact, this has been a cycle of unpredictability. Two years ago nobody would have thought that Mitch McConnell's handpicked candidate in his home state couldn't make it to the nomination, or that Charlie Crist would be forced out of his own party, or that Mike Castle would lose his primary fight.

We have always said these races must be a contrast. Republicans are on the ballot too and must be a part of the conversation. We believed that once we defined our opponents and framed the race, as our candidates have done across the board, that voters will reject the Republican alternative who in most cases is an extremist with views so radical they care more about imposing a strict social doctrine than addressing the economic challenges working people face right now.

And now that voters are casting ballots we can see our work has been effective. Despite national momentum being on the Republican side for months, we are not seeing anything resembling a Republican surge. In fact, to the contrary, in key Senate races, we are seeing encouraging signs for Democrats. Granted this analysis accounts for only one full week of early vote data, we believe our modeling shows that Democrats are engaged, enthused – and most importantly – voting. Should these trends continue, Democrats will have a strong election night on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### RAW BALLOTS

Democrats have cast more ballots in West Virginia, California, and Nevada and we know from our targeting that likely Democratic voters have cast more ballots than likely Republican voters in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Washington.

#### ANALYSIS

A sophisticated and honest analysis looks beyond how many Democrats versus Republicans have cast ballots. We compare:

- midterm voting Democrats vs midterm voting Republicans
- sporadic-voting Democrats vs sporadic-voting Republicans
- first time voting 2008 Democrats vs first time voting 2008 Republicans

To compare across vote history categories is to compare apples to oranges.

#### STATE-BY-STATE

In **Nevada** 6.2% of both first-time 08 Democrats and first-time 08 Republicans have voted already. 7.4% of sporadic Democrats and 7.1% of sporadic Republicans have voted

already. Finally, more midterm voting Democrats have voted as compared to midterm voting Republicans. So in considering all three voter history models, Democrats are winning two, and tied in the third. Most importantly, in Nevada there are many more sporadic Democrats and first time 08 voting Democrats than there are comparable Republicans.

**Illinois** remains the seventh-most Democratic state in the country and so far this year's turnout looks to be no exception. Democrats are winning the raw vote. So far, 155,046 people have voted, 78,074 (50%) are likely Democratic voters and 55,675 (36%) are likely Republican voters. African-Americans are voting at roughly the same rate as white Democrats.

Republicans historically have more midterm voters than Democrats do in **Colorado** but as of last week, midterm voting Democrats are voting at a slightly higher rate than their midterm voting Republican counterparts. In fact statewide Democratic performance is underrepresented because Denver ballots arrived several days after most other counties.

In **Wisconsin**, more Democrats have voted than Republicans. Democrats are keeping pace in each voter history category with their Republican counterparts.

1,403,565 people have voted already in **California**, including 603,713 Democrats (43%) and 545,321 Republicans (39%). Our modeling shows the average Boxer support of the Independents who have cast a ballot is 57%.

In **Washington**, according to our partisan modeling, likely Democratic voters account for 38.9% of the vote and likely Republicans account for 36.9% of the vote. More likely Democratic voters are voting than likely Republican voters. Our modeling shows that Murray has an edge over Rossi with Independents who have voted.

In **West Virginia** 55.5% of all ballots cast have come from Democrats while only 34.4% of ballots cast have come from Republicans. That's 10,355 more Democratic ballots cast than Republican ballots.

Unfortunately in **Pennsylvania**, early voting is not open to all voters. A voter must have one of a handful of legal excuses to vote early. Therefore only 5% of the total state's electorate votes absentee. Democrats typically underperform in this segment - even in 2008, Republicans beat Democrats in absentee votes. With the race trending our way, later votes likely help the Democratic ticket.

In short, we believe these races remain very close and will stay competitive through election day. As Republicans have nominated extremists as their Senate candidates, Democrats have become increasingly unified and motivated.

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