November 9th – The big news out of Pennsylvania early Wednesday morning happened when the Associated Press, shortly after 1:30 a.m., declared that in a “stunning” turn of events Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump had won Pennsylvania and its much coveted 20 electoral votes.

Pennsylvania’s 20 electoral votes - along with Trump wins in other battleground states like Florida, Ohio and Wisconsin – were among the ways this unorthodox candidate and unlikely winner shocked the nation racking up the 270 plus electoral votes required to become the 45th President of the United States of America.

Based on unofficial vote tallies, Trump bested Hillary Clinton by approximately 60,000 votes in Pennsylvania.

2,851,050 Pennsylvanians voted for Trump.\(^1\) Ultimately Trump won the support of fewer Pennsylvania voters than President Barack Obama did in 2012. In that year, 2,990,274 voters supported Obama.\(^2\) Clinton, however, outperformed Mitt Romney’s vote total in 2012 as she earned 2,788,242 votes on Tuesday. In 2012, Romney secured 2,680,434 votes.

United States Senator Pat Toomey also earned 2.8 million votes Tuesday earning himself another 6-year term in the United States Senate. Still he did not outperform Trump (earning approximately 40,000 fewer votes than Trump). Toomey beat Democrat Katie McGinty earning 85,000 more votes than the former cabinet official for President Bill Clinton and former Governor Ed Rendell. McGinty also served as the chief of staff for Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf.

Toomey will return to a U.S. Senate that has more Republicans. Republicans not only retained control of the U.S. Senate, but also the U.S. House of Representatives.
Shapiro becomes PA’s next attorney general and like Kane makes history
Pennsylvania’s top vote getter Tuesday was current Montgomery County Commissioner Josh Shapiro ensuring he will become Pennsylvania’s next Attorney General.

Shapiro’s victory over his opponent John Rafferty was secured with 2.931 million votes (the most of any statewide candidate).

In a moment of déjà vu, Shapiro did in November 2016 exactly what then Attorney General candidate Kathleen Kane did in 2012. In both 2012 and 2016 the statewide candidate earning the most votes was the candidate for Attorney General. In both 2012 and 2016 this candidate secured more votes than the candidates for President, United States Senate, and all statewide row offices.

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