

# The Independent's



October 2000



**SPECIAL ELECTION ISSUE**



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## PAA 2001

**The Future Is Now  
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**W**e are in one of the closest and most important election years in history. Not only is the race for the White House tight, the congressional races have also left control of both Houses of Congress up for grabs. The grocery industry has a lot to gain or to lose depending on what happens November 7. This special election issue will give you the key House and Senate races that will likely decide which party controls Congress next year, as well as the importance of the outcome of the congressional and presidential elections to the industry.

## UNITED STATES SENATE ELECTION UPDATE

Currently, there are 46 Democrats and 54 Republicans in the Senate. In November, the GOP may lose a few seats, but it will not likely be enough for the Democratic party to take control of the chamber. Of the 34 Senate races this year, Republicans could lose one to three of them, which would still give the GOP a majority, albeit one that's razor-thin.

One of the most aggressive races was in Missouri, where incumbent Republican Senator John Ashcroft was facing limited two-term Democratic Governor Mel Carnahan. Tragically, Gov. Carnahan was killed in a plane crash on October 16. Democrats had counted the Missouri race as one of their best opportunities to pick up a seat on November 7.

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## YOUR VOTE MATTERS!



**T**his year's presidential election will be one of the closest contests the nation has ever seen. The fate of several of the food industry's top issues will be decided on November 7. What happens on Election Day will determine the difference between repeal of the unfair estate tax or a minor revision to existing law that will have no effect on most family-owned grocers. It will determine whether you have an ergonomics regulation the industry can live with, or one of the most costly and burdensome regulations we have ever seen. It will decide if we have health care reform that controls costs and limits liability, or a plan that favors the nation's trial lawyers, increases employer liability and raises health care costs to a level that would likely inhibit you from providing quality health care to your employees. This year, you can't afford to stay home on election day.

FMI has joined with the Business-Industry Political Action Committee (BIPAC) and its Project 2000 to help elect pro-business candidates to Congress. FMI's Government and Public Affairs Web site provides you with a link to BIPAC's homepage. For voting records on issues important to the business community and to obtain absentee ballot information, see [www.fmi.org/gr](http://www.fmi.org/gr) and click on "Election 2000." Also listed on FMI's Government and Public Affairs Web site are the Institute's key votes. See the "What's New" box for an easy link.

Your vote counts! In the 1998 elections, former House member John Ensign (R) lost his Senate bid to Harry Reid (D) by less than 500 votes. In the same year, Pennsylvania House Member Don Sherwood (R) won by less than 600 votes. Please go to the polls on November 7 and make a difference.

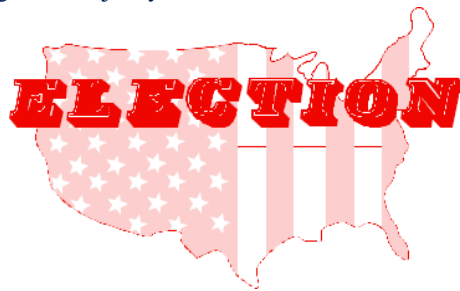
## United States Senate Election Update cont.

*from page 1*

The race for the seat of retiring New York Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan at times has garnered more attention from the media than the presidential race. Scales are tipped in favor of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, but Republican Rep. Rick Lazio, who has a great deal of financial support, will run this race to the wire.

The most likely outcome in November depends largely on how well Democrats protect their four open seats in Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey and New York, and their one vulnerable incumbent Sen. Chuck Robb in Virginia. It also hinges on how well Republicans fare in their one open seat in Florida and with their four most vulnerable incumbents (Sen. William Roth – Delaware, Sen. Spence Abraham – Michigan, Sen. Rod Grams – Minnesota, and Sen. Slade Gorton – Washington).

Vice Presidential candidate Joe Lieberman's seat in Connecticut also adds an interesting twist to the question of which party will control the Senate. According to Connecticut law, Lieberman is allowed to run for both offices, and has until October 27 to opt out of the Senate race, allowing the Democratic party to substitute another candidate. When asked after the third presidential debate if he would give up the Senate race in Connecticut, he said there would "be no surprises" at the end of October. If Lieberman does opt out of the race and Vice President Al Gore wins the White House, then Democrats have a better chance to win the majority. However, if Sen. Lieberman stays in the race and Vice President Gore wins the election, Connecticut's Republican Gov. John Rowland would appoint a Republican as Lieberman's successor giving the GOP an edge in maintaining their majority.



### TOP COMPETITIVE SENATE RACES

STATE	CANDIDATES
Delaware	Sen. William Roth (R) vs. Tom Carper (D)
Florida	Rep. Bill McCollum (R) vs. Bill Nelson (D) Open: Sen. Connie Mack (R) Retiring
Michigan	Sen. Spence Abraham (R) vs. Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D)
Minnesota	Sen. Rod Grams (R) vs. Mark Dayton (D)
Nebraska	Don Stenberg (R) vs. Ben Nelson (D) Open: Sen. Bob Kerrey (D) Retiring
New Jersey	Rep. Bob Franks (R) vs. Jon Corzine (D) Open: Sen. Frank Lautenberg (D) Retiring
New York	Rep. Rick Lazio (R) vs. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D) Open: Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D) Retiring
Virginia	Sen. Chuck Robb (D) vs. George Allen (R)
Washington	Sen. Slade Gorton (R) vs. Maria Cantwell (D)

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION UPDATE

Republican leaders in the House have the narrowest majority in Congress since the 1950s. Currently, there are 210 Democrats, 223 Republicans and two Independents, which means that the Democratic party would only need to pick up seven seats to gain control of the chamber. In addition, there are more Republican-held seats in play this year, which gives Democrats a slight edge because they have fewer open seats to defend. Of the 35 open seats, only 10 are held by Democrats. Even though the party may benefit slightly from the smaller number of open seats they are defending this election cycle, the 19 competitive House races listed below make the fight for majority control still too close to call.

## TOP COMPETITIVE HOUSE RACES

STATE		CANDIDATES
Arkansas	04	Rep. Jay Dickey (R) vs. Mike Ross (D)
California	15	Jim Cunneen (R) vs. Mike Honda (D) Open: Rep. Tom Campbell (R) running for U.S. Senate
California	27	Rep. Jim Rogan (R) vs. Adam Schiff (D)
California	36	Rep. Steve Kuykendall (R) vs. Jane Harman (D)
Florida	08	Ric Keller (R) vs. Linda Chapin (D) Open: Rep. Bill McCollum (R) running for U.S. Senate
Florida	22	Rep. Clay Shaw (R) vs. Elaine Bloom (D)
Indiana	08	Rep. John Hostettler (R) vs. Paul Perry (D)
Kentucky	06	Rep. Ernest Fletcher (R) vs. Scotty Baesler (D)
Michigan	08	Mike Rogers (R) vs. Diane Byrum (D) Open: Rep. Debbie Stabenow (D) running for U.S. Senate
Missouri	06	Sam Graves (R) vs. Steve Danner (D) Open: Rep. Pat Danner (D) retiring
Montana	AL	Denny Rehberg (R) vs. Nancy Keenan (D) Open: Rep. Rick Hill (R) retiring
New Jersey	07	Mike Ferguson (R) vs. Maryanne Connelly (D) Open: Rep. Bob Franks (R) running for U.S. Senate
New Jersey	12	Rep. Rush Holt (D) vs. Dick Zimmer (R)
New York	01	Feliz Grucci (R) vs. Regina Seltzer (D) Open: Rep. Michael Forbes (D) lost primary
Oklahoma	02	Andy Ewing (R) vs. Brad Carson (D) Open: Rep. Tom Coburn (R) retiring
Penn	04	Melissa Hart (R) vs. Terry Van Horne (D) Open: Rep. Ron Klink (D) running for U.S. Senate
Penn	10	Rep. Don Sherwood (R) vs. Patrick Casey (D)
Utah	02	Derek Smith (R) vs. Jim Matheson (D) Open: Rep. Merrill Cook (R) lost primary
Washington	02	John Koster (R) vs. Rick Larsen (D) Open: Rep. Jack Metcalf (R) retiring



## KEY INDUSTRY ISSUES AT STAKE IN NOVEMBER

Several of the industry's key issues will be determined by the outcome of this election. Not only will the party who controls the House and Senate have a huge impact on the legislation that moves through Congress next year, the president and his regulatory appointees will greatly affect the industry's top issues.

### Estate Tax Repeal

Presidential candidate George W. Bush has said he will repeal the estate tax, while Vice President Al Gore has offered only a minor \$7 billion, 10-year revision to the existing law. The Gore plan would have little impact on grocers struggling to deal with the effects of the estate tax.

### OSHA's Ergonomics Regulation

During consideration of their Labor/HHS/Education appropriations measures, both the House and Senate adopted amendments that would prohibit the Clinton Administration's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) from using funds "to promulgate, issue, implement, administer or enforce any proposed, temporary or final standard on ergonomic protection," during FY 2001. FMI is working to ensure that the language remains in the bill when it's sent to the president. However, it appears at the time of printing that Congress may only delay the regulation until the spring of 2001. This means that if Vice President Al Gore is elected, the rule will go into effect.

### Patients' Bill of Rights

The possibility of a Patients' Bill of Rights before this Congress adjourns is unlikely. The issue will remain a campaign tool for both parties. Vice President Al Gore supports the Norwood-Dingell measure that would greatly increase liability for business and make it difficult for grocers to offer quality health care to their employees.

Several of the electronic payment, labeling and food safety issues will also be determined by the outcome of this election. Please don't miss your opportunity to vote on November 7.

### 270 Is the Magic Number

A group of electors chosen within each state elect the president and vice president. The number of electors allocated to each state is equal to the number of its U.S. Senators, always two, plus the number of its U.S. Representatives, determined by the state's population. To win the White House, a candidate needs 270 electoral votes.



*Save the Date!*

## *The 2001 Public Affairs Assembly*



With a new president and a new Congress, the 2001 Public Affairs Assembly gives the food industry an opportunity to promote and protect its interests. Meet your new lawmakers and continue to build on those relationships you've already worked to establish. Help us define the 107th Congress and shape legislation early in the new session. The future is now. You can make a difference!

**Look for registration materials after the Thanksgiving Holiday.**