Democrats in Connecticut rode a blue wave during Tuesday’s election – winning the biggest prize of the night – Ned Lamont as the next Governor of the state. In a sweep, the party also will continue to control all the state-wide elected offices – Secretary of the State, Comptroller, Treasurer and Attorney General.

Democrats also won significant legislative majorities in the Connecticut Senate and House and again carried every US Congressional District and the US Senate seat. Democratic new-comer Jahana Hayes, a former National Teacher of the Year, won the open 5th Congressional District seat becoming the first Afro-American person to be sent to Congress from Connecticut.

Bob Stefanowski, the Republican gubernatorial candidate, conceded early Wednesday morning after waiting for final results to trickle in from some cities and towns.

Ned Lamont trailed Bob Stefanowski into the early morning when returns from the major Connecticut cities including Hartford and New Haven gave Lamont the race. With the lead expanding to over 10,000, it became unlikely that Stefanowski would be able to catch up. Lamont will squeak by after a record midterm turnout.

Unsurprisingly, Senator Chris Murphy won a second term with a substantial margin over Republican Matt Corey. Democrats were largely fueled by female voters who supported Lamont but also provided new pickups for Democrats in the Connecticut Legislature especially in towns in Fairfield Country.

The biggest surprise of the night was Democratic legislative victories. In the State Senate Republicans had seen recent gains bring them to parity with Democrats at an 18-18 breakdown and the Lieutenant Governor breaking ties.

After beating five Republican incumbents and winning an open seat previously held by another Republican, Democrats will have a decisive majority in the Senate – 24-12 currently as long any recounts don’t change the current numbers.

The House also saw Democrats make gains with a double-digit margin leaving the chamber at a likely 92-59 split before recounts are held in multiple races. Previously, the House Democrats controlled 80 seats with the Republicans having 71.

Speaker Joe Aresimowicz, who won a tight race, and Majority Leader Matt Ritter are expected to continue leading the House of Representatives. The Senate could have a challenge in Senate leadership but with a number of new members it is unclear what changes could occur yet.
US Senate
Senator Chris Murphy (D) won a second six-year team, defeating Republican Matt Corey with over 58% of the vote to about 40% of the vote. Murphy was always expected to win and campaigned hard for the entire Democratic ticket.

Congressional Delegation
The 5th Congressional District was the only open seat in 2018. Teacher of the Year Jahana Hayes (D-Waterbury) rode a wave of enthusiasm to beat Republican former Meriden Mayor Manny Santos 56% to 44%. Hayes had more noticeable enthusiasm that allowed her to build a significant funding advantage and keep this race from becoming competitive.

The other four Congressional districts also remain in Democratic control with incumbents John Larson (CD-1), Joe Courtney (CD-2), Rosa DeLauro (CD-3) and Jim Himes (CD-4) having no issue fending off limited Republican opposition.

Statewide Offices
Governor & Lt. Governor
Ned Lamont (D-Greenwich) has a narrow lead over Madison businessman and former UBS executive, Bob Stefanowski. Lamont trailed for much of election night but several cities and Democratic strongholds had not reported into the early morning hours.

Earlier in the night former Metro Hartford Alliance CEO Oz Griebel (R-Hartford) conceded to his opponents after receiving less than 4% of the overall vote.

Susan Bysewicz will serve as the Lieutenant Governor.

Attorney General
William Tong (D-Stamford) will be the first Asian-American elected statewide in Connecticut. Tong defeated Sue Hatfield (R-Pomfret), a prosecutor who ran on her criminal justice background and was attempting to be the first Republican Attorney General in Connecticut since 1952.
SECRETARY OF THE STATE
Secretary of the State Denise Merrill (D- Hartford) won her third term as Secretary of the State. She defeated Susan Chapman (R- New Fairfield).

TREASURER
Wooden (D- Hartford), an investment attorney and former Hartford City Council President, has defeated the Republicans nominated retired investment executive Thad Gray (R- Salisbury). Wooden will follow Hartford native Denise Nappier who has served as Treasurer for the last 20 years.

COMPTROLLER
Comptroller Kevin Lembo (D- Guilford) defeated First Selectman Kurt Miller (R- Seymour). Lembo will serve a third term as the Comptroller after taking a pass on the race for Governor.

STATE SENATE
Senate Democrats expanded their majority after having to share power after the 2016 election. The Senate makeup could provide Democrats with a 24 to 12 majority. Three Senate Republican incumbents clearly lost races including Senators Toni Boucher, Michael McLachlan and Len Suzio.

Additionally, Senator Scott Frantz of Greenwich trails his opponent Democrat Alexandra Bergstein. And in the Ansonia/Hamden Senate race incumbent Senator George Logan narrowly trails challenger Jorge Cabrera (D). A recount could occur in both races. If the races hold up Democrats will have defeated five incumbent Senate Republicans.

Going into the night there were as many as 10 competitive Senate races. Those broke in the favor of Democrats in a major way. In addition to the defeat of five Republican incumbents, Democrats won competitive open seat races in Milford (James Maroney) and Branford (Christine Cohen).

Democrats also look like they narrowly won a seat in Eastern Connecticut that is currently held by Republican Senator Linares, who lost a primary for Treasurer. After a contentious race, First Selectman Norm Needleman holds a very slight lead over current Republican Representative Melissa Ziobron.

In other races, Democrat Representative Matt Lesser will replace Democratic Senator Paul Doyle, Representative Rob Sampson (R) will replace Republican Joe Markley, Vernon Mayor Robert Champagne (R) will replace retiring Senator Tony Guglielmo (R) and Dennis Bradley (D) will replace retiring Senator Ed Gomes (D).

New Senators include (seats that flipped parties are highlighted D and R):
- SD 9 (Middletown, Rocky Hill, Wethersfield): Matthew Lesser (D) def. Ed Chabot (R)
- SD 12 (Branford, Guilford, Madison): Christine Cohen (D) def. Adam Greenberg (R)
- **SD 13 (Cheshire, Meriden)**: Mary Abrams (D) defeats incumbent Sen. Len Suzio (R)
- SD 14 (Milford, West Haven): James Maroney (D) defeats Rep. Pam Staneski (R)
SD 16 (Prospect Southington, Wolcott): Rob Sampson (R) defeats Vickie Nardello (D)
SD 17 (Hamden, Naugatuck): Jorge Cabrera defeats Sen. George Logan (R) *(Note: Could be potential recount with narrow vote difference)*
SD 23 (Bridgeport): Dennis Bradley (D) defeats John Rodriguez (R)
SD 24 (Danbury, New Fairfield): Julie Kushner (D) defeats incumbent Sen. Michael McLachlan
SD 26 (Redding, Ridgefield, Westport): Will Haskell (D) defeats incumbent Sen. Toni Boucher
SD 33 (Colchester, East Haddam, Essex, Lyme): Norm Needleman (D) defeats Rep. Melissa Ziobron (R) *(Note: Could be potential recount with narrow vote difference)*
SD 35 (Pomfret, Stafford, Tolland, Vernon): Dan Champagne (R) defeats John Perrier (D)
SD 36 (Greenwich, Stamford): Alexandra Bergstein (D) defeats Scott Frantz (R) *(Note: Could be potential recount with narrow vote difference)*

STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Democrats expanded their majority in the State House of Representatives by expanding the numbers to a 92-59 split. House Democrats defeated 10 Republican incumbents while Republicans took back Democrat held seats (Rovero). Overall, it added 8 votes to the Democratic majority resulting in a 88-

The Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz held on by only a few votes in his Berlin district. Democrats also held competitive seats in Torrington (Rep. Cook), Meriden (Rep. Abercrombie), Cheshire (Rep. Linehan), Pomfret (Rep. Boyd) and East Haven (Rep Albis) that had been challenged. They also held open seats in Branford and Ansonia previously held by long-term Democrats.

As a result, Speaker Joe Aresimowicz (Berlin) is expected to continue to lead the Democratic caucus with Matt Ritter (Hartford) serving as the Majority Leader.

Representatives Berger (D- Waterbury), Gentile (D- Ansonia), Juleson-Scorpino (D- Manchester), Morris (D- Norwalk), LeGeyt (R- Avon), Reed (D- Branford), Rovero (D-Putnam), Srinivasan (R-Glastonbury), Skulczyck (R- Griswold), and Urban (D- Stonington) are all retiring and did not seek re-election. Representatives Guerrera (D- Rocky Hill), Lesser (D- Middletown), Sampson (R- Wolcott), Staneski (R- Milford), Tweedie (R- Manchester), and Ziobron (R-East Haddam) all ran for State Senate. Representatives Adams (D- Stamford) and Fleischmann (D- West Hartford) lost to fellow Democrats in the August primaries.

House Republican incumbents lost several races including several surprises caused by the blue wave.. The list of defeated Republican incumbents includes Reps. Duff (Bethel), Byron (Newington), Siegrist (Chester ), Belsito (Tolland), Stokes (Enfield), Storms (Windsor), Ohler (North Canaan), Ferguson (Danbury), Dunsby (Easton), Wilms (Norwalk) and Boccino (Greenwich).

The victories look to have been largely in suburbs, including many districts in suburban Fairfield county and Hartford county. It is likely woman and young voters helped fuel these victories.
New State Representatives will include (seats that flipped parties are highlighted \( \text{D} \) and \( \text{R} \)):

- **HD 2 (Danbury, Bethel)**: Raghib Allie Brennan (D) defeats Will Duff (R)
- **HD 12 (Manchester)**: Geoffrey Luxenberg (D) defeats Thomas Tierney (R)
- **HD 13 (Glastonbury, Manchester)**: Jason Doucette (D) defeats Jennifer Fiereck (R)
- **HD 17 (Avon)**: Leslee Hill (R) defeats Eleni Kavros Degraw (D)
- **HD 18 (West Hartford)**: Jillian Gilchrest (D) defeats Mary Fay (R)
- **HD 27 (Newington)**: Gary Turco (D) defeats Rep. Gary Byron (R)
- **HD 29 (Rocky Hill)**: Kerry Wood (D) defeats Andrew Lanciotto (R)
- **HD 31 (Glastonbury)**: Jill Barry (D) defeats Lillian Tanski (R)
- **HD 34 (Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton)**: Irene Haines (R) defeats Theresa Govert (D)
- **HD 36 (Chester, Deep River, Essex, Haddam)**: Christine Palm (D) defeats Robert Siegrist (R)
- **HD 43 (Stonington)**: Kate Rotella (D) defeats Shaun Mastroianni (R)
- **HD 45 (Griswold)**: Brian Lanoue (R) defeats Steven Mikutel (D)
- **HD 51 (Killingly, Putnam)**: Ricky Hayes (R) defeats Larry Groh (D)
- **HD 53 (Ashford, Tolland, Willington)**: Pat Wilson Pheanious (D) defeats Rep. Sam Belsito (R)
- **HD 58 (Enfield)**: Tom Arnone (D) defeats Rep. Greg Stokes
- **HD 60 (Windsor, Windsor Locks)**: Jane Garibay (D) defeats Scott Storms (R)
- **HD 64 (NW Corner towns)**: Marie Horn (D) defeats Brian Ohler (R) *(Note: Could be potential recount with narrow vote difference)*
- **HD 73 (Waterbury)**: Ronald Napoli (D) defeats Steven Giacomi (R)
- **HD 80 (Southington, Wolcott)**: Gale Mastrofrancesco (R) defeats David Borzellino (D)
- **HD 91 (Danbury)**: Ken Gucker (D) defeats Michael Ferguson (R)
- **HD 100 (Middletown)**: Quentin Phipps (D) defeats Anthony Gennaro (R)
- **HD 102 (Branford)**: Robin Comey (D) defeats Robert Imperato (R)
- **HD 104 (Ansonia)**: Kara Rochelle (D) defeats Joseph Jauman (R)
- **HD 119 (Orange, Milford)**: Kathleen Kennedy (R) defeats Ellen Beatty (D)
- **HD 135 (Easton)**: Anne Hughes (D) defeats Rep. Adam Dunsby (R)
- **HD 140 (Norwalk)**: Travis Simms (D) defeats John Flynn (R)
- **HD 142 (Norwalk)**: Lucy Dathan (D) defeats Rep. Fred Wilms (R)
- **HD 146 (Stamford)**: David Michel (D) defeats Dan Pannone (R)
- **HD 147 (Darien, Stamford)**: Matthew Blumenthal (D) defeats Anzelmo Graziosi (R)
- **HD 150 (Greenwich)**: Stephen Meskers (D) defeats Rep. Mike Boccino (R)

*Note that Democrats hold narrow leads in HD 30 (Berlin, Southington), with Speaker Aresimowicz leading Republican Michael Gagliardi, and HD 120 (Stratford), with Phil Young leading Jim Feehan (R). Both races could have recounts.*

Democrats and Republicans, in both the House and Senate, will caucus in the coming days to determine leadership of each caucus. It is not expected that the leadership of the House Democrats, House Republicans and Senate Republicans will change. Before the election, there was developing a leadership
challenge in the Senate Democratic caucus but any outcome is now not certain due to the changes to this caucus.

With the Senate no longer tied at 18-18, there will no longer be two Senate Chairs of legislative committees. The Democrats will return to controlling both the House and Senate Chairs. With the tie in the Senate and the near parity in numbers in the House for the past two years, the committees especially Appropriations and Finance had to at least have the appearance of bipartisanship. It remains to be seen whether that will continue for the upcoming two years.

We would expect to see some new committee chairs but assignments will not be announced until December. The 2019 session officially begins January 9, 2019 and the regular session will end on June 6, 2019. It will be a learning curve for all with a new administration and many new faces in the legislature. We look forward to a very interesting session to say the least!