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Thursday, November 9, 2006

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11/8/2006 12:29:13 PM

A good day for Democrats

Democrats don't often have as much to celebrate as they do today, and that's true on national, statewide and local levels.

Nationally, of course, Democrats regained control of the House of Representatives, and when the counting and recounting is done, might have won enough races to control the Senate as well. That's a stunning turnabout whose impact on federal legislation will be fascinating to watch.

Statewide, the biggest story is Democrat Nancy Boyda's defeat of five-term Republican Jim Ryn. Also, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius won a second term, and though it wasn't a surprise, the margin of victory was. That's also the case in the attorney general's race, where Democrat (and former Republican) Paul Morrison overwhelmed the incumbent, Phill Kline.

Manhattan's two House seats, the 66th and 67th District, will remain in Democrats' hands. Voters in the 66th District made clear their satisfaction with the representation of two-term incumbent Sydney Carlin, whose victory over Bob Strawn was indeed impressive. We tip our hat to her for the loyalty she has engendered through old-fashioned hard work and the attention she gives constituents. Also, Tom Hawk held the 67th District seat, easily turning back a challenge by Dick Miller. The Democrats' victories are all the more impressive because Mr. Strawn and Mr. Miller were as attractive a pair of candidates as the Republicans have fielded in some time.

The challenges Reps. Carlin and Hawk face differ from those of Mrs. Boyda, who finds herself part of a House majority. Reps. Carlin and Hawk remain part of the minority in the Kansas House. We congratulate them all and wish them well, for whatever success they enjoy will benefit



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Kansas and its citizens.

That's true for Gov. Sebelius and Mr. Morrison, both of whom, as did Mrs. Boyda, needed considerable support from unaffiliated voters as well as moderate Republicans to prevail.

The governor won because she has done a fine job of leading the state and has demonstrated an appreciation of bipartisanship. Mr. Morrison won in large part because Mr. Kline used the office to pursue a social agenda. In so doing, he alienated a great many Kansans who have every reason to expect more from the person who is, after all, the chief law enforcement officer in the state.

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