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Provided by Yolanda Benson

The results of Tuesday's primary election are mostly in, and as expected for a non-presidential mid-term election, turnout at the polls was very low. Only about an 18% turnout. There were no real surprises, and Governor Jerry Brown predictably came out on top in the Governor's race and will face Republican, Neel Kashari in November, who beat out conservative Republican Assemblyman Tim Donnelly for second place. Although most races have been decided, several others are too close to call and may not be final for several days or weeks.

Other statewide contests of interests were in the race for Controller, Secretary of State and Superintendent of Public Instruction. One of the offices that could possibly see a Republican victory in November is Controller and now that the primary results are in, that still holds true. Although the race is still too close to call, Republican Mayor of Fresno Ashley Swearingin is currently in the lead, holding 24.4% of the vote. By the way, Ashley Swearingin prior to being Mayor of Fresno was the Economic Development Director for Fresno through Fresno State University and was key in helping to implement policies to build the Central Valley jobs through the San Joaquin Valley Partnership, an Executive Order signed by Governor Schwarzenegger during his administration. She gets jobs, is sharp and is a rock star! Former Assembly Speaker and Democrat John Perez is next with the most votes which will, more than likely, set up a face off in November between Swearingin and Perez.

Additional notable statewide and constitutional results include:

- Superintendent of Public Instruction: Incumbent Tom Torlakdson will face challenger Marshall Tuck for the state's top education post in November.
- Secretary of State: Democrat State Senator Alex Padilla and Republican Peter Peterson will advance to the General Election in November. Padilla narrowly came in first with 30.1% of the vote. Although Peterson was a close second with 29.6%. Surprisingly, indicated State Senator Leland Yee received 10% of the vote, coming in ahead of No-Party-Preference Candidate Dan Schnur.
- Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom and Attorney General Kamala Harris both won first place by wide margins in their races and it appears as though they will sail to re-election in November.

Although some of California's statewide races produced surprise results, the real battleground was in the Legislative races, with several swing seats in play whose outcomes may threaten the Democrats' supermajorities in the Senate and/or the Assembly in November. There are two key seats up for grabs this fall that could potentially decide the fate of the Senate Democrats' supermajority in 2015 - Republican Andy Vidak's race to defend his Central Valley seat, and the race to succeed termed out Democrat Senator Lou Correa. Republicans earned first place in both on Tuesday. Vidak currently has 62.4% of the vote with second-place Democrat Luis Chavez taking 37.6%. For Correa's seat, Orange County Supervisor Janet Nguyen took the top spot with 51.5% of the vote and former Assemblyman Jose Solorio was a distant second with 34%. If Vidak is victorious and Solorio is defeated in the general, the Democrats' supermajority in the Senate will be gone. We can expect both parties to spend heavily in both races.

In the Assembly: There are several toss up races that were closely watched. Democrats currently hold 55 seats in the Assembly and are fighting to retain that supermajority. Among the key races is AD 65, which pits incumbent Democrat Sharon Quirk-Silva against Republican Young Kim, a former congressional staffer. With 54.7% of the vote, Kim is in first place. Quirk Silva is in second

with 45.3%. Although Kim is ahead by almost 10%, Democrats will dedicate significant resources to defend Quirk-Silva in November.

In AD 36, Republican Palmdale City Councilman Tom Lackey outpaced Democrat incumbent Steve Fox, receiving 41.7% of the vote against Fox's 32.6%. Voter registration in Fox's district favors a Republican, so Lackey definitely has a shot at regaining this seat for Republicans when the two face off in November.

The third key race in the Assembly is the fight to succeed Republican Assemblyman Jeff Gorell, who gave up his seat to run for Congress. Although the district used to be a Republican safe haven, GOP registration has dropped recently and Democrats have gained an edge. As such, Democrat Jacque Irwin took first place with 45.4% of the vote, trailed by Republican Rob McCoy (30.8%). McCoy split the Republican votes with Mario De La Piedra (23.8%), so Republicans have a shot at maintaining this seat in November.

In Congressional races, at least three sitting members of the State Legislature will be headed to Washington, D.C.:

- Senator Mark DeSaulnier
- Senator Norma Torres
- Either Senator Tony Strickland or Senator Steve Knight (too close to call at this time)

We will keep you updated on the political environment in California as these races continue to take shape leading up to and after the November General Election.