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Julia Boseman wins reelection in New Hanover

N.C. State Senator one of 67 gay candidates elected to federal, state and local offices across U.S.

by Dennis Dison

WILMINGTON, N.C. — Campaigning was dirty at times between incumbent State Sen.



State Senator Julia Boseman (D-New Hanover) won re-election by 11,000 votes. Julia Boseman and challenger Al Roseman, but in the end, Boseman handily claimed vic-

tory by more than 11,000 votes. In an interview with the *Wilmington Star*, Boseman said New Hanover County voters chose her because of her work to improve education, raising teacher salaries and drumming up funds for the University of North Carolina in Wilmington.

"This election is not about me," she said. "It's about what is important to this community."

In conceding defeat, Roseman made no mention of Boseman, but was quick to offer a backhanded congratulations to The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund for their success.

In addition to Boseman, the Victory Fund helped on the Nov. 7 election to bring an unprecedented success in electing openly gay candidates this year. Sixty-seven Victoryendorsed candidates were elected to federal, state and local offices, with some winning historic races that make them the first openly gay or lesbian candidates ever elected in their states or legislative bodies.

"This is the tipping point election for openly gay candidates," said Chuck Wolfe, president and CEO of the Victory Fund. "We're proving that qualified, well-prepared candidates matched with committed donors means gays and lesbians can move from having a stake in policy to actually making policy. There's no reason to sit on the sidelines with our fingers crossed anymore."

Additional wins nationwide:

Patricia Todd, who will represent District 54 in the Alabama State House. Todd is the first openly gay person ever elected to any office in the state.

Kathy Webb, who will represent District 37 in the Arkansas State House. Webb is the first openly gay person ever elected to any office in the state.

• *Henry Fernandez*, who won a seat on the Lawrence Township School Board, making him the first openly gay person ever elected to any office in Indiana.

Al McAffrey, who will represent District 88 in the Oklahoma State House. McAffrey is the first openly gay person ever elected to the Oklahoma state legislature.

Jolie Justus, who will represent District 10 in the Missouri State Senate. Justus is the first openly gay state senator in Missouri history.
Ed Murray, who will represent District 43 in

the Washington State Senate. Murray, a former state representative, is the first openly gay state senator in Washington history.
Matt McCoy, who becomes the first openly gay candidate ever elected to the Iowa legis-

lature. McCoy, a sitting state senator, came out during his last term.*Ken Keechl*, who won a seat on the Broward

County Commission in Florida, beating an appointee of Gov. Jeb Bush.

• Jamie Pedersen, who becomes the third consecutive openly gay person to be elected to represent District 43 in the Washington State House.

• Judge Virginia Linder will join Rives Kistler on the Oregon Supreme Court, making it the first state ever to have two openly gay Supreme Court Justices, according to preliminary results.

Key statistics about Victory-endorsed candidates in 2006

- Total Victory-endorsed candidates: 88 (55 non-incumbents, 33 incumbents)
 Total Victory-endorsed winners: 67
- Total Victory-endorsed winners running as openly LGBT for the first time: 37

LGBT state legislators: Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma

· Percent of Victory Fund bundled money

non-incumbent candidates: 91 percent

· States that elected their first-ever openly

• States that elected their first-ever openly

spent on non-incumbent candidates: 80 per-

Percent of Victory Fund PAC money spent on

LGBT officials: Alabama, Arkansas, Indiana

- Seven states that still have no openly LGBT elected officials at any level of government: Alaska, Louisiana, North Dakota, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, West Virginia
- Thirteen additional states that still have no openly LGBT state legislators: Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, Wyoming

Arizona's voters reject so-called 'Protect Marriage Amendment'

Mid-western state becomes first to defeat such an amendment by Stacia Schacherer

PHOENIX, Ariz. — The Nov. 8 ballot count resulting in the defeat of *Prop. 107* marks a

significant day for Arizona's families. With 97 percent of precincts reporting, *Prop. 107* was trailing by nearly three percent, which includes comfortable margins in the state's two largest communities, Phoenix and Tucson. The results elated campaign leaders, volunteers and supporters.

"First and foremost, I'm exceptionally proud to be an Arizonan. This outcome speaks volumes about Arizona's commitment to families," said Kyrsten Sinema, chair of Arizona Together. "Arizona voters saw through *Prop.* 107's rhetoric and knew that the intent of 107 was to take away domestic partner benefits from thousands of Arizona families," continued Sinema.

"Clearly, Arizona's voters took the time to do their homework regarding *Prop. 107*," said Steve May, campaign treasurer for Arizona Together. "We knew all along that once voters were informed about the true impact of *Prop. 107* they would oppose this hurtful initiative. They made the right decision."

They made the right decision." Arizona Together campaign chairs credit research, truth, discipline and staffing for their win, "We exposed the *Prop. 107* ballot language to identify exactly what impact it would have on Arizona residents. After that, we spoke to real people that would be directly impacted and told their stories to the public," "Once we discovered the truth about the initiative that if passed it would take away important benefits from families — we worked nonstop to get

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No more Santorum

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Sinema.



'This outcome speaks volumes about Arizona's commitment to families.' — Kyrsten Sinema, chair of Arizona Together

see amendment on 19

Anti-gay amendment passes in S.C.



Despite efforts, measure passes by over 70 percent. See page 16 for news story.

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