

Sen. Ridgeway Capitol Report Final Results - Presidential & our county

Aren't we all worn out with elections? Yet it's still in the news here in Missouri because our results for the Presidential race have been too close to call. Nearly weeks after the Nov. 4 election, Missouri has finally declared a winner in the presidential race. Based on final, yet unofficial results, Sen. John McCain will take all of Missouri's 11 electoral votes. Though our electoral votes did little to affect the outcome of the race, Missouri can now close the door on the 2008 presidential election.

Missouri has voted for the winner in every U.S. Presidential election beginning in 1904, except in the 1956 election and now in the 2008 election. This is why Missouri is considered to be a political "bellwether", because how Missouri votes is usually how the entire U.S. votes. This year was a rare exception.

Clay County has also gained the reputation of being a bellwether county in our state. Often, the statewide candidate who wins Clay County will also win the entire state. This was true in the McCain/Obama race this year. Clay County voters chose John McCain (Republican) narrowly, with 49.55% of the vote over Barack Obama (Democrat) with 48.86% of the vote.

Statewide, 69% of all registered voters, or about 2.9 million Missourians cast ballots on election day—the previous record of 2.7 million voters was set in 2004. The margin separating the two presidential candidates was less than 4,000 votes, making it one of the narrowest in history. Latest tallies show Sen. McCain receiving 1,445,812 votes, or 49.4%, and President-elect Barack Obama receiving 1,441,910 votes, or 49.3%.

Here are the final counts on other Clay County races at the Congressional and state level:

Congress – 6th District (includes Clay County)

Graves (Republican)	55.80%
Barnes (Democrat)	39.99%

State Senate – 17th District (the majority of Clay County)

Ridgeway (Republican)	53.04%
Aust (Democrat)	46.86%

State Representative – 31st District (mostly North Kansas City)

Skaggs (Democrat)	97.42%
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State Representative – 33rd District (mostly Gladstone)

Nolte (Republican)	53.12%
Stone (Democrat)	46.82%

State Representative – 34th District (mostly Liberty)

Flook (Republican)	61.26%
Niffin (Democrat)	38.61%

State Representative – 35th District (mostly Smithville/Kearney/Holt)

Ervin (Republican)	60.27%
Baldwin (Democrat)	39.68%

State Representative – 38th District (mostly the Kansas City portion of Clay Co.)

Silvey (Republican) 58.43%

Reed (Democrat) 41.46%

This raps up the various election results. If you want a more detailed breakdown of all Clay County results, you may view them at the Clay County Election Board website: <http://www.claycoelections.com/election-information/live-results.html>

If you have any questions or comments about this Capitol Report, or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail at luann.ridgeway@senate.mo.gov or by phone at 573-751-2547.