Election Results...

**National** – In a tight race both in PA and nationally, unofficial results indicate that Joe Biden received sufficient votes to win key states and defeat incumbent Donald Trump for President. Trump’s loss will mean that Education Secretary Betsy Devos’s tenure will end and there will be a new Education Secretary – and a new direction in education policy. ([Click here](#) to read Education Week’s take on that change.) In the Congress, Republicans gained a few seats in the U.S. House, although the Democrats maintain the majority in that chamber. Republicans maintain a very narrow majority in the U.S. Senate – for now - but several seats are still in contention.

**Pennsylvania** – Republicans maintained their majority in both the House and Senate, although the outcome of several very close races still need to be determined. In state row offices, Attorney General Josh Shapiro (D) won his re-election bid, while the race for PA Treasurer is still up in the air. Republican Timothy DeFoor won the Auditor General’s race.

**Impact** – In Pennsylvania, the continuing Republican hold in the General Assembly likely means continuing disagreements with Gov. Wolf on a host of issues, including education and COVID-related concerns. The same could be said about Washington. Much will depend on how willing the U.S. Senate will be to develop compromises with the new President.

Guidance, Reports and Resources...

**PASA Resources** – PASA’s [web page](#) concerning the Coronavirus and Pandemic Preparation includes links to information about COVID-related issues, along with updated guidance from the PDE, CDC and USDE, and other important updates from the state and federal levels. In addition, PASA has compiled and posted a list of resources to assist school leaders and educators to facilitate conversations and initiatives addressing racism and inequity in schools and communities. [Click here](#) for the list.

**Resources from PASA Sponsors** – PASA is grateful for the ongoing support of our Sponsors at all levels. Although PASA does not promote or endorse any product or service offered by our sponsors, we are pleased to share information they offer that may be helpful to school leaders, particularly concerning return-to-school issues. R Zero, a PASA Platinum Sponsor, is offering “Hospital-Grade Disinfection: Protect Students and Staff in COVID-19 and Beyond,” a 30-minute webinar, on both Nov. 10 (10 a.m.) and Nov. 12 (noon). [Click here](#) to register. In addition, other PASA sponsors have offered free webinars and other unique opportunities and resources to assist PASA members in planning for the school year. A recording of several of these webinars and a list of additional [FREE](#) resources and information is available on the [PASA website](#).

Budget, Finance & Funding News...

**October State Revenues** – Pennsylvania collected $2.6 billion in General Fund revenue in October, which was $365.6 million, or 16.4 percent, more than anticipated, Revenue Secretary Dan Hassell reported last week. Fiscal year-to-date General Fund collections total $12.5 billion, which is $824.5 million, or 7.1 percent, above estimate. “Revenue collections are ahead of estimate to this point in part because of better than expected collections in our three primary revenue sources — sales tax, personal income tax and corporate net income tax,” Secretary Hassell said. “We're pleased to see the national economy is bouncing back from the recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we still have a long way to go to recover the revenue that was lost during the economic downturn earlier this year.” (from a press release, 11/2/20)

In Legislative News...

**Session Schedule** – With the election over, and the Republicans apparently holding their majority in both the House and Senate, both chambers will need to elect leaders for the 2021-22 session. As the outcome of several
tight races still needs to be determined, the plan to elect session and caucus leaders tomorrow (Nov. 10) has been delayed until later this week. Still pending: lawmakers and the governor must work out a compromise to complete the state budget for 2020-21.

**Last Week’s Bill Action –**

* **SB 530: Sexual Assault in Schools; signed into law as Act 110 of 2020.** The bill would require a student who is convicted or adjudicated delinquent of sexual assault to be expelled, transferred to another building or transferred to another program apart from the victim if they are enrolled in the same K-12 school district. Parents or guardians who register their student in a school district would be required to confirm whether the student previous or currently is expelled for this offense and provide information relative to the name of the school and term of expulsion. The bill also requires the Safe Schools Advocate in the Philadelphia SD to monitor district compliance with the bill’s provisions. As amended in the Senate, the bill would prohibit including the student within a pool of school applicants for admission to the school (applies to charter schools).

**In National News…**

**Public Schools in the Last Decade –** In his latest book, *Schoolhouse Burning*, Derek Black, a professor of law at the University of South Carolina where he specializes in constitutional law and education, argues that even before the pandemic hit, public schools were undergoing a crisis of confidence. He talked to Education Week about public schools' current political standing, how the pandemic could upend funding for public schools, and who's to blame for the ongoing fiscal crisis. Among his observations: teachers have been demonized, which is why fewer individuals are seeking the profession; vouchers is now on steroids; public schools are not failing, but inequality is rising; the recession and budget cuts have exacerbated existing problems with funding public schools; and growing partisanship is negatively impacting public education. Read the rest of the story: “Why This Scholar Says the Last Decade Was One of Public Education's Most Brutal” (from Education Week, 11/5/20).

**Across the Nation…**

**Arizona: Money for Education** – Arizona voters have approved a new tax on high-earning residents that could bring in nearly $1 billion of new revenue annually to the state’s underfunded school system. The approval of Proposition 208 came after the state’s business community spent millions trying to defeat the measure backed by many educators and progressive groups. They argued it would hurt the state’s economy. “By voting Yes on 208, Arizona voters made it loud and clear they want teachers to be compensated properly and have the resources needed to successfully educate their students,” said Joe Thomas, President of the Arizona Education Association, the state’s largest teachers union. (from Education Week, 11/6/20)

**Kentucky: Impact of High School Journalism** – Kentucky State Police Commissioner Rodney Brewer resigned from his position last week, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet confirmed. His resignation followed a report that state police training materials used several years ago included quotes from Adolf Hitler and Robert E. Lee, among other historical figures. Some of the quotes encouraged violence. That story was originally reported by the Manual RedEye, the student newspaper at duPont Manual High School in Louisville. Gov. Andy Beshear on Tuesday said the state has found more training material with similar information. “It is always more difficult to fight against faith than against knowledge,” states a quote attributed to Hitler in the PowerPoint presentation that the student newspaper posted online. The presentation also advised trainees to become a “ruthless killer.” Read the rest of the story: “Ky. Police Commissioner Resigns After Student Newspaper Investigation” (from Education Week, 11/5/20).

**On the PASA Calendar…**

Nov. 12……..Board of Governors’ meeting (virtual)
Nov. 16……..Women’s Caucus virtual networking session (6-7 p.m.)
Nov. 16-17….New Superintendents’ Academy Part 2
Nov. 18……..Fall Webinar Series #3: Implicit Bias in Schools
Nov. 19……..National Supt. Certification Program (virtual session)