



Photo by Brittany Rempe

ERNST WINS

Joni Ernst rallies past Bruce Braley to secure a U.S. Senate seat in the midterm elections

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America voiced a strong opinion on election night: the GOP reigned victorious on a national, state and local level. Iowa was in the national spotlight as a tight race between Braley and Ernst saw the latter as the winner.

This is the first time that Iowa is sending a woman senator to Capital Hill. It's also the first time in nearly 40 years that a Republican has taken over a consistently Democratic Party seat under Sen. Tom Harkin.

After the results were announced, Ernst tweeted, "Incredibly grateful. Thank you for electing me as your United States senator. Time to make Washington squeal. #iasen."

Ernst won Warren County with 55.72 percent of votes.

Simpson College Republicans voiced strong support as election results flooded in.

"She had a lot of support, and her campaign was on a steady uphill climb, so we're all relieved to see all the hard work paid off," senior Amy Frakes said. "I can't wait to see Sen. Ernst working alongside Sen. Grassley."

Another reason they believe in Ernst's leadership is because of her outreach to Iowans.

"Ernst did a better job of creating an image people wanted to be associated with in a time when people don't necessarily vote solely by party. I don't think it would have been the same result with a different Republican candidate," junior Alex Cutchey said. "I think she was more accessible to the people of Iowa."

But more importantly, they said, the victory for Ernst means Washington will finally start working again.

"Iowa is finally sending a woman & military veteran to the U.S. Senate," senior

Austin Jacobs said. "Hopefully with Joni's help, the newly GOP-controlled Senate can get back to work and do something. Mr. Braley was a good rival, but tonight Iowans voted to send the person who will better represent Iowa to Washington."

Ernst rallied with supporters with her victory speech. Of Braley she said, "He was a worthy opponent and was willing to sacrifice for what he thought was right. I admire anyone who is willing to stand up and fight for what they believe in."

She continued with gratitude for her voters and talk of a refreshed vision for the country.

"Our problems aren't just going to go away. We can overcome them...to get there it starts with new leadership, and that's what Iowa has voted for today," Ernst said.

On the national level, the GOP won senate majority. Simpson College Republicans also believe this is another step towards change.

"With the Republican Party taking the majority we can focus on stimulating free trade, reducing the deficit and forcing definitive action by the president," Cutchey said. "I think it will bring accountability back into the federal government."

"The American people fired Harry Reid and sent President Obama a message. Now, maybe real change can come to America," Jacobs said.

The gubernatorial race saw incumbent Gov. Branstad re-elected to a sixth term.

Warren County was a red county in the race with 58.83 percent voting for Gov. Branstad.

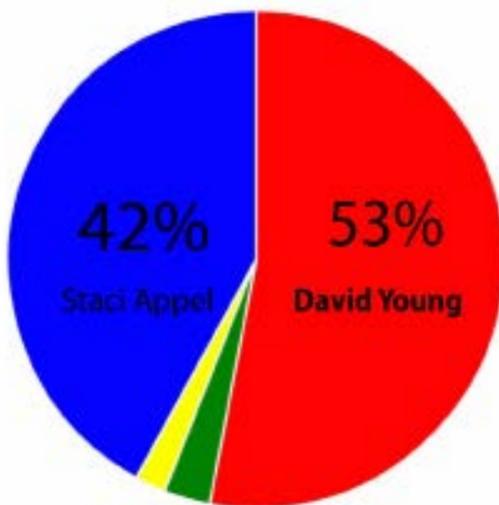
"I don't think anyone was surprised by this call. Branstad has been a hardworking governor, and he's earned the support of Republicans and Democrats alike. This election makes him the longest-serving governor, and I'm excited to see what the next four years bring," Frakes said.

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U.S. Senator Joni Ernst

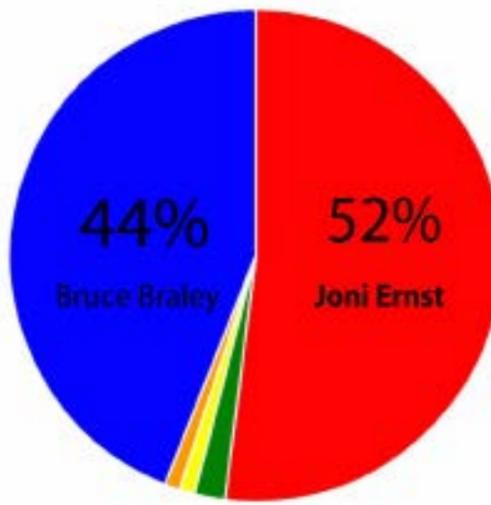
Mid-term Election results

U.S. House - District 3



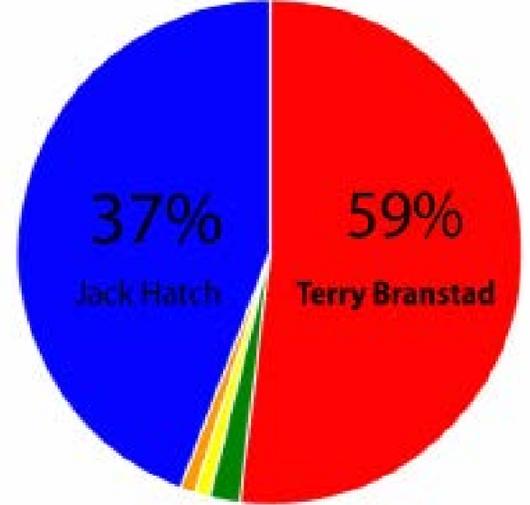
Edward Wright, 3%
 Bryan Holder, 2%

U.S. Senator



Rick Stewart, 2%
 Bob Quast, 1%
 Douglas Butzier, 1%

Governor



Lee Hieb, 2%
 Jim Hennager, 1%
 Johnathan Narcisse, 1%