

Congressional incumbents win election bids

The incumbents but one of Arizona's congressional representatives, who chose not to run, were victorious in Tuesday night's election.

The lone change was in District 1, where Democrat Ann Kirkpatrick defeated Sydney Hay to take over Rick Renzi's (R-Ariz.) seat. Kirkpatrick is a Flagstaff lawyer and former state lawmaker. Hay is Arizona Mining Association Director.

"I voted for Kirkpatrick simply because she has more experience in the legislature," said Scott Singer, a voter from Prescott. "I just trust her more."

Renzi was indicted on federal charges in early 2008, but has denied wrongdoing related to the allegations, which stem from a real estate deal. A trial is scheduled next spring.

Arizona's First Congressional District is the largest in the state and 10th largest in the nation, spanning more than 58,000 square miles and including Flagstaff, Sedona and Prescott.

Kirkpatrick's win marks the first time a Democrat will serve the district in its 10-year history.

Kirkpatrick received endorsements from Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords (D-Ariz.) and U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell (D-Ariz.). Her campaign raised more than twice as much as Hay's effort since the primary in September.

In District 3 John Shadegg (R-Ariz.) held off Democrat Bob Lord's deep pockets to continue into his eighth term in the House.

There was hope among Democrats that the economic crisis and a high voter turnout would swing the election to Lord, but Shadegg ended up the top choice of voters in the northern Phoenix-area district.

"There needs to be balance in government and Shadegg brings that with his conservative values," said Leann Wilder from North Phoenix.

Shadegg has been an advocate of small government and individual freedoms.

In his first campaign for Congress, Lord, a Scottsdale attorney, spent upwards of \$1.4 million of his own money, and the Democratic Party donated \$2 million. Lord has been criticized for running a negative campaign.

"I wasn't really sure what he stood for, I just knew what he was against," Tempe resident Eileen Hartnett said, when asked why Shadegg was the lone Republican checked on her ballot.

Shadegg confirmed voters may have been turned off by the Democrat's negative campaigning.

In the Fifth District, Harry Mitchell (D-Ariz.) defeated Republican David Schweikert, a former legislator and Maricopa County Treasurer. Mitchell, a former mayor of Tempe, will be entering his second term in the House, a seat he won two years ago by upsetting incumbent J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz.). The district is centered around Tempe and Scottsdale.

Freelance reporter Allison Filbert contributed to this story.