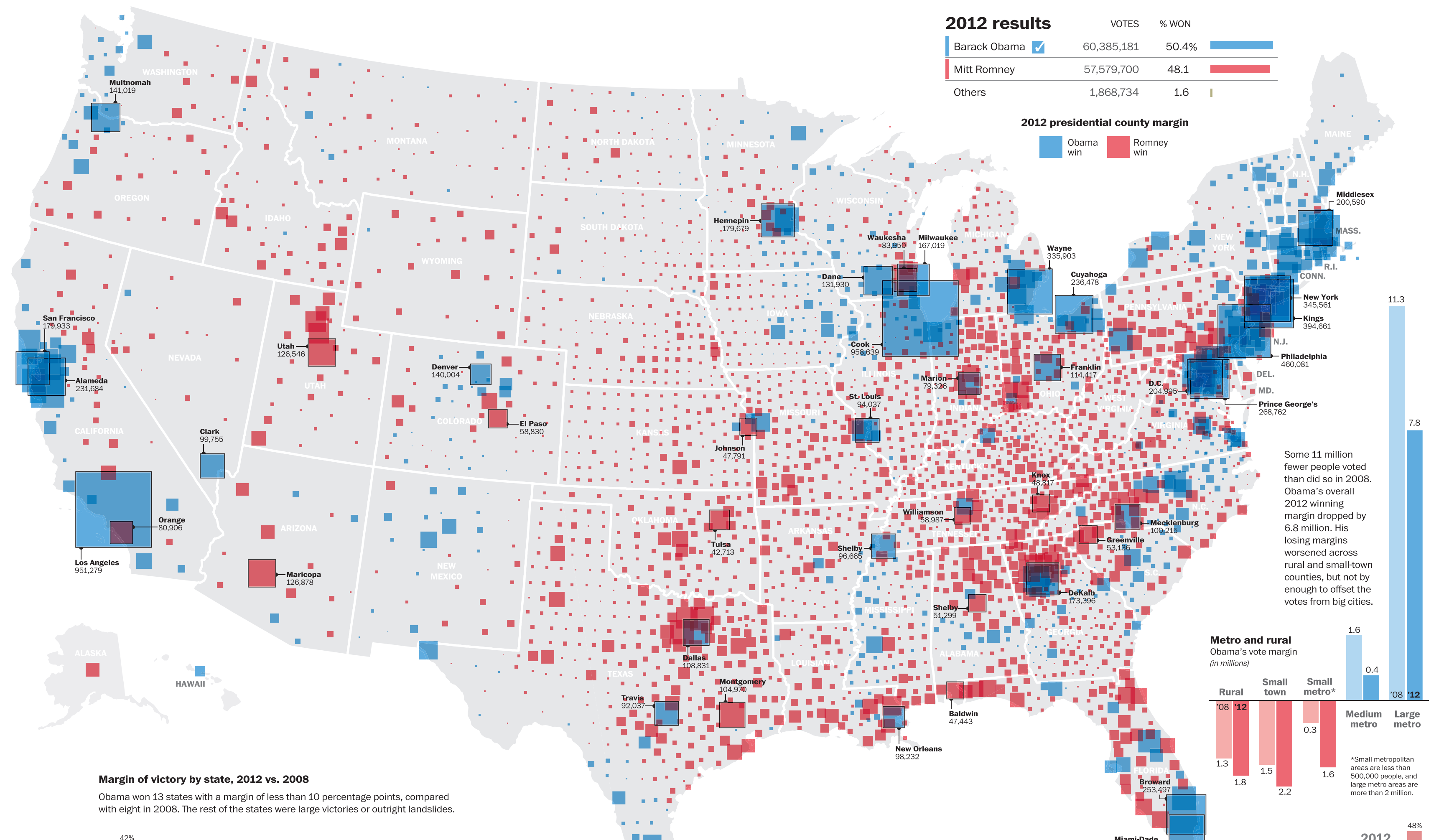
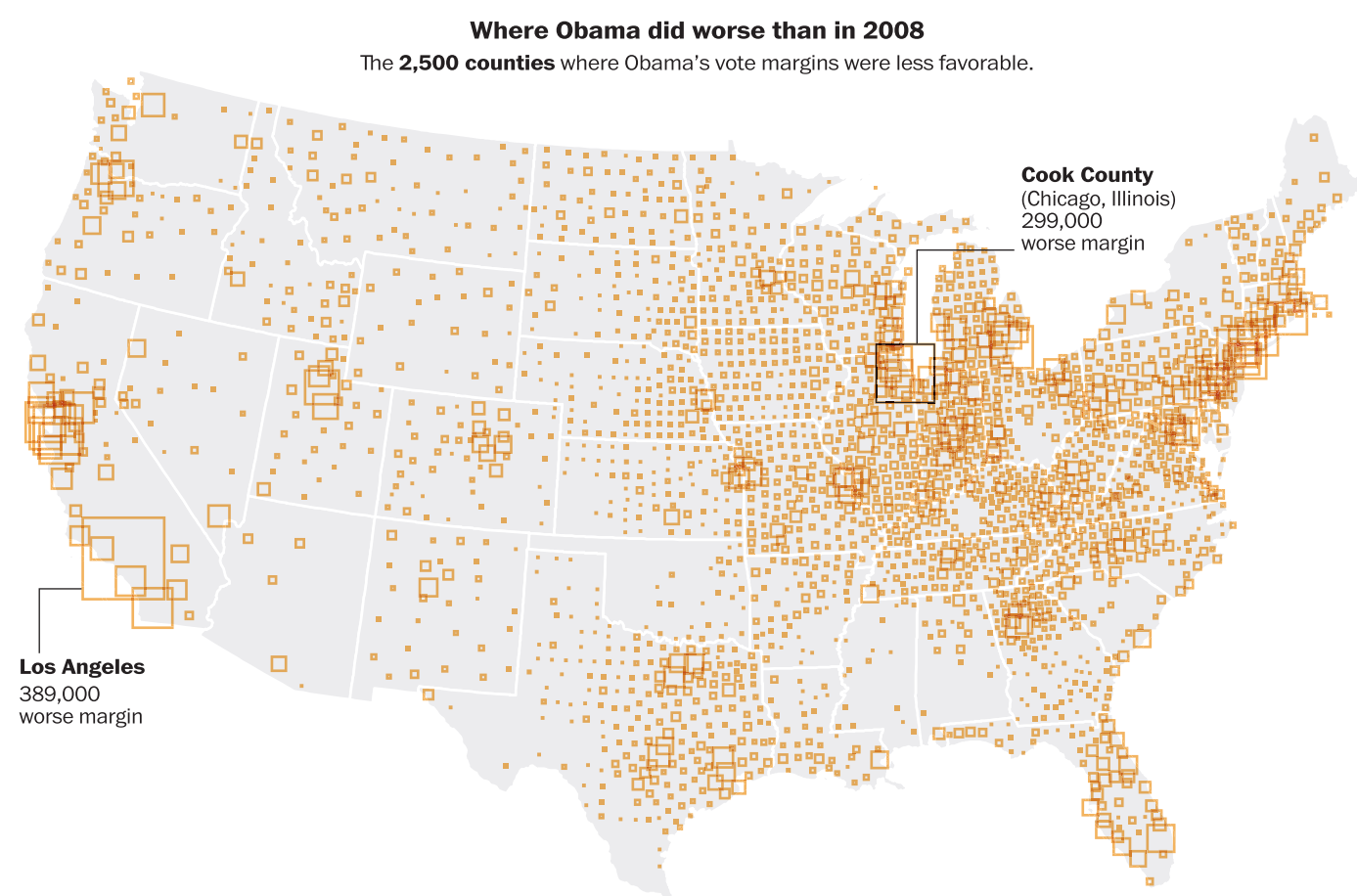
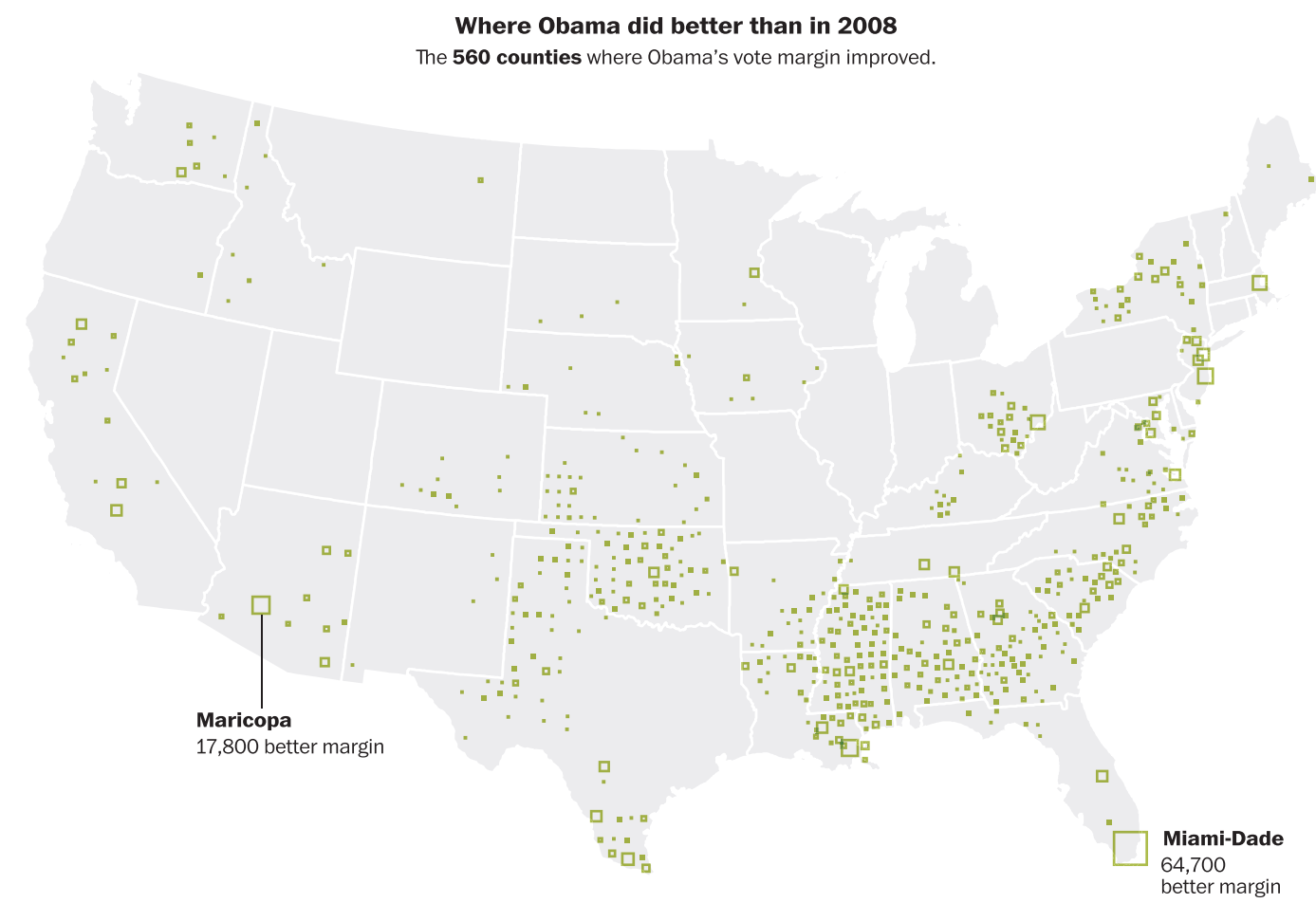


Looking at the margins

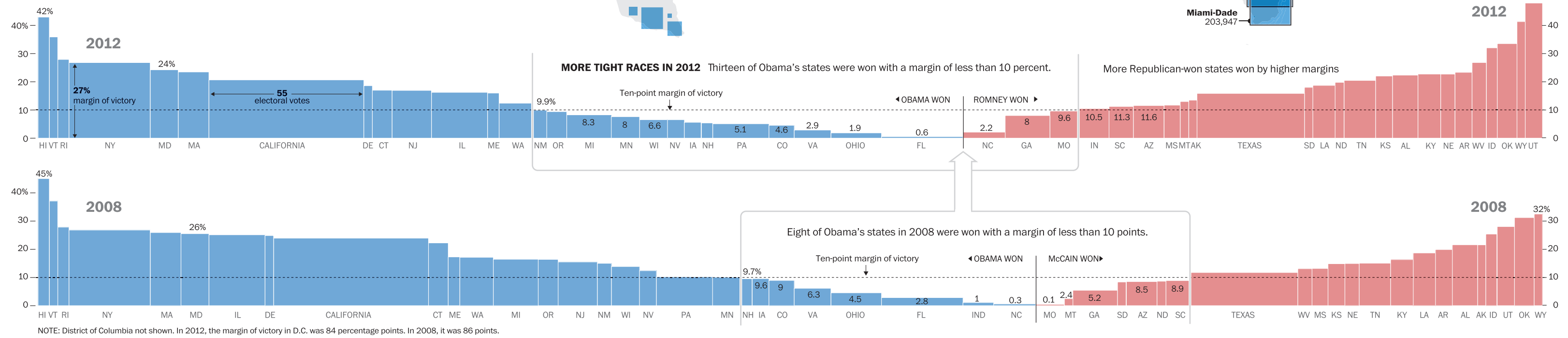
President Obama carried fewer states on Tuesday than four years ago, and fewer by a landslide. He nonetheless won a second term by again dominating the nation's large urban areas, although by smaller margins. Mitt Romney won three times as many counties, and across the country improved on Republican margins from 2008. But with his wins in cities and suburbs, Obama amassed more votes.

By Ted Mellnik, Dan Keating, Laura Stanton, Karen Yourish, Gene Thorp and Laris Karklis



Margin of victory by state, 2012 vs. 2008

Obama won 13 states with a margin of less than 10 percentage points, compared with eight in 2008. The rest of the states were large victories or outright landslides.



House and Senate results

Republicans retained their House majority, while Democrats kept control of the Senate.

Results as of 6:15 p.m. Wednesday

Sources: Staff reports, Associated Press, National Atlas of the United States, U.S. Census

