

METRO

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2012

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EZ SU

Obituaries Longtime baseball executive Lee MacPhail, 95, made the controversial Pine Tar Game ruling in 1983 against the New York Yankees, restoring a dramatic home run by Kansas City Royals star George Brett. **C8**

WASHINGTONPOST.COM

The Root DC's top picks

Looking for something to do? Find information on events from funk music to down-home dinners at therootdc.com.

COMMUTER

Thanksgiving getaway tips

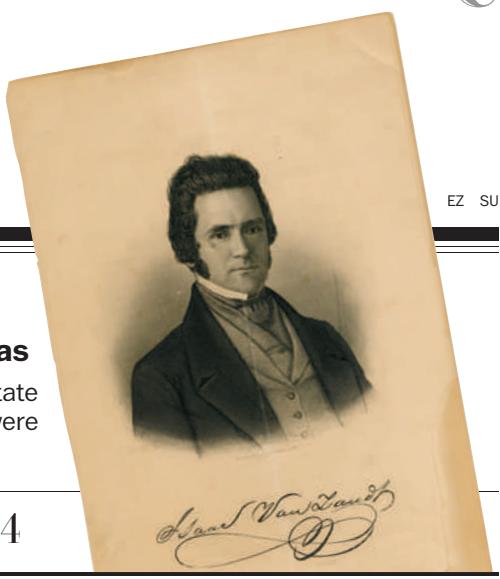
There are no undiscovered shortcuts, area travelers say, just alternative routes. Dr. Gridlock maps some options that should make the drive ahead less painful. **C2**

JOHN KELLY'S WASHINGTON

Diplomats of Texas

When the Lone Star State was a country, there were also emissaries. **C3**

Local Opinions: D.C. should go national with its memorial to the Great War. **C4**



O'Malley basks in ballot success

GAY MARRIAGE, TUITION, GAMBLING

Md. governor backed issues at own risk

BY JOHN WAGNER

After mingling for about 20 minutes at the bar, Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley made his way to a table near the back of the dining room at Casa Lever, a trendy Italian restaurant on Manhattan's Park Avenue adorned by Andy Warhol prints.

Over ravioli and red wine, O'Malley (D) made his pitch for help to actor Josh Charles, a Baltimore native, and Charles's friend Brian Ellner, who had run a costly campaign to build public support for same-sex marriage legislation in New York last year.

We can win this thing in Maryland — we have the right message, O'Malley told them during a wide-ranging conversation that also veered into national politics and the health of the Chesapeake Bay, according to an aide at the table.

Commitments made at the June dinner led to a star-studded fundraiser in September in New York to benefit Maryland's same-sex marriage campaign. It raised more than \$100,000, raised the profile of the race, and was emblematic of the kind of effort that

O'MALLEY CONTINUED ON C6

A glimpse into our political future



The election is over, so now we look ahead. For the Washington region, the most important consequence, by far, is the possibility of major federal spending cuts starting in January that would force tens of thousands of layoffs in our area.

Of course, that prospect has nothing to do with the results of the election. We'd be worrying about it even if Mitt Romney had won.

The budget crisis is upon us now because Congress deliberately timed it to come after Tuesday's voting. We can't do much except nervously watch the negotiations and lobby local senators and congressmen to cut a deal to minimize the damage.

Are you depressed yet? Me, too. That's why I'm going to change the subject. I'll have plenty of time later to agonize over the fiscal cliff and its scary impact on the region.

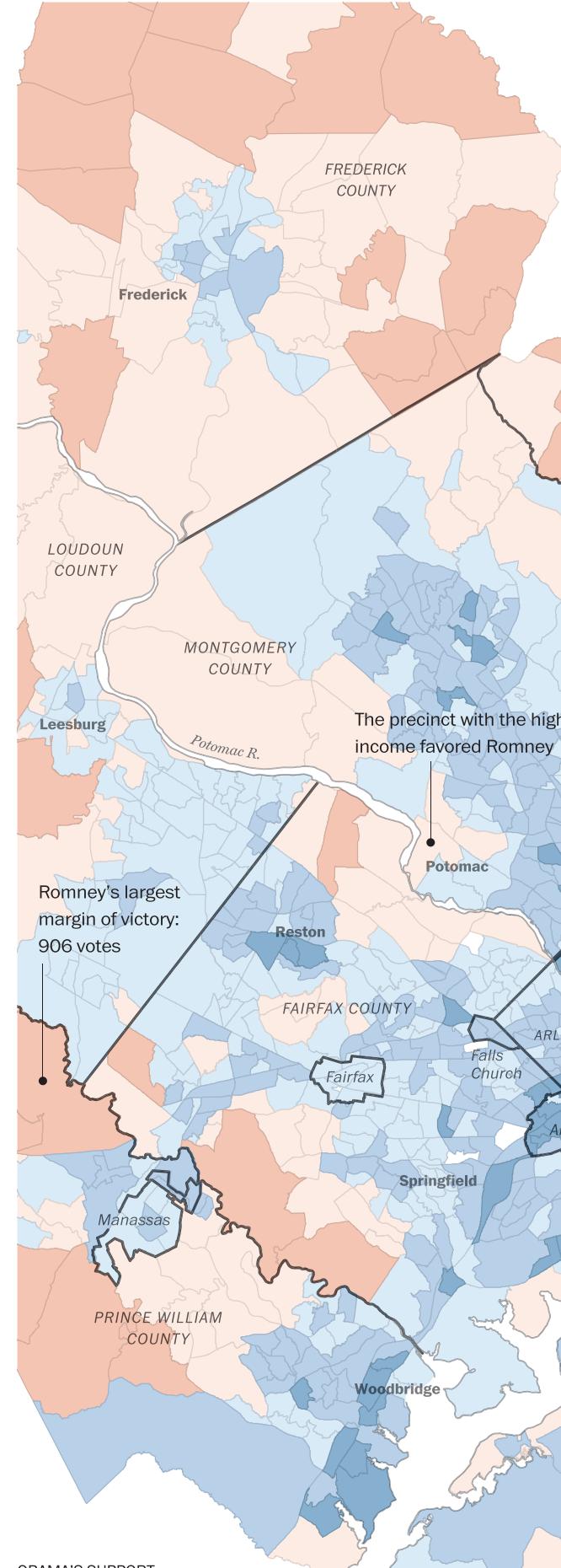
Instead, let's look at ways the election affected the political outlook in each of our three major jurisdictions.

Virginia:

After the Democrats ended a three-year losing streak in the Old Dominion with victories in the presidential and U.S. Senate races, attention turns to next year's campaign to succeed Gov. Bob McDonnell (R).

The three main declared candidates are Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli and Lt. Gov. Bill Bolling, who will compete for

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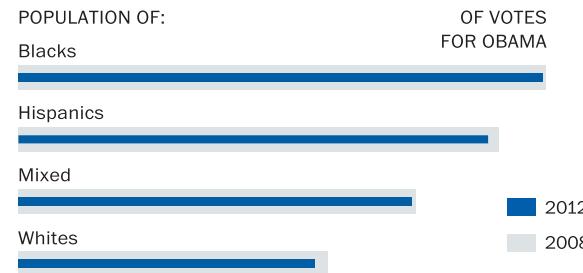


Race and income

Obama's support in racially dominated precincts changed little this election compared with 2008 results.

Obama won overall in predominantly white precincts. In poor and minority neighborhoods, it was almost unanimous.

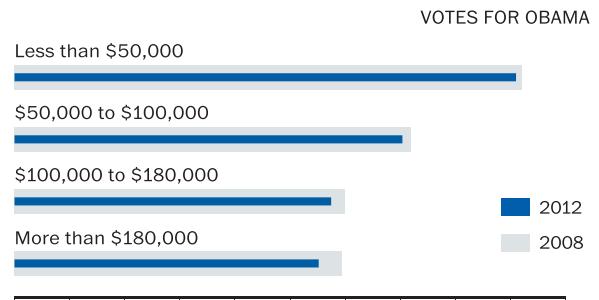
PRECINCTS WITH A PREDOMINANT POPULATION OF:



Obama's support trailed off in the urban fringe and in areas with the most wealth.

In precincts where more than half of potential voters hailed from rural areas, Romney won 57 percent. But those accounted only for one-twentieth of the region's electorate.

BY INCOME



Sources: Associated Press, local and state election authorities, Harvard Election Data Archive, Stanford Election Atlas

LARIS KARKLIS, TODD LINDEMAN AND TED MELLNIK/THE WASHINGTON POST

After historic vote, a happier challenge: Wedding plans

BY CAROL MORELLO AND MICHELLE BOORSTEIN

In the weeks leading up to Election Day, Joseph Smith asked his partner of 24 years what he wanted to do if Maryland voters approved same-sex marriage.

"When it passes, we'll talk about it," Don Starr, a George Mason University professor, told Smith, the first openly gay member of the Havre de Grace City Council.

The prospect of marrying is no longer a maybe. Over dinner Wednesday, Starr looked across the table at Smith and said, matter-of-factly, "I guess we'll



ASTRID RIECKEN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

talk about it now."

Practical discussions of whether and when to marry are now underway in many of the Maryland households in which, census statistics show, 12,500 same-sex couples already form a family.

Some couples already were

MARRIAGE CONTINUED ON C7

Parents in Loudoun offer an idea to save old school

BY SUSAN SVRLUGA

Loudoun County public school enrollment has essentially doubled in the past decade, with the district taking in thousands of new students every year and racing to build new, look-alike buildings to relieve some of the pressure on crowded schools.

But Middlebury Elementary is an anomaly. It's old. And it's tiny.

This red brick building topped with a bell tower has been a village school for generations. It hosts 61 students in a district where seven of its elementary schools are packed with more than 1,000 each.

Just about everyone in the building knows everyone else, waiting for a computer is never an issue and children feel comfortable popping into Principal Karen Roche's office to ask almost

anything a 5-year-old can think of.

And many parents think the school is doomed. They wonder if, in an era of constant growth and budget pressure, a traditional village schoolhouse such as this one can survive.

The fear of the school getting shut down — whether that is just rumor or an imminent threat — has parents rallying to save it. They don't want to lose its history, its charm and its nurturing, community feel; they don't want to be like eastern Loudoun, where district lines change frequently to accommodate booming new subdivisions.

"It comes up every year when budget time comes around," said school board member Kevin Kuesters. "There are always folks who

SCHOOL CONTINUED ON C6