

REACTIONS

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"At least the power is going to be with the conservative Republicans," he said. "We can keep taxes and welfare issues in a system of checks and balances."

• Kristy Perez, president of Aggie Democrats and an educational psychology graduate student: Perez said Clinton's victory is representative of voters' expectations of their future.

"Looking at the two candidates, I think they made the right choice for their future," she said. "I'm thankful students went out and voted, no matter what party they voted for."

• Jeff Livingston, president of College Republicans and a senior electrical engineering

major: Livingston said voters showed their approval of a Republican Congress by re-electing Republican Senator Phil Gramm.

"I think Sen. Gramm's pretty convincing victory shows people want a more responsible government," he said. "Americans are pretty happy with a Republican Congress."

• Ryan Runkle, president of Aggies for Clinton and a senior philosophy major: Runkle said he was excited about the re-election of the Democratic president.

"It looks like they (Republicans) may have won a sheriff's race," he said in reference to the election of Republican Sheriff Chris Kirk. "But we (Democrats) won the presidency and we're going to keep it well into 2000."

ELECTION

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Clinton went on to an industrial belt sweep, winning New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and Illinois. Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota added to Clinton's Midwest rout. The border states of

Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee, home state of Vice President Al Gore, also were in the Democratic column, as was Clinton's Arkansas. Arizona and New Mexico brought good news from the Southwest; Louisiana from the South.

Clinton carried the six New England states and rolled through New York, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. California, Oregon and Washington continued the rout.

Dole and Jack Kemp, on the other hand, carried 14 states with a combined 129 electoral votes. Dole's wins came in North Dakota, Oklahoma, Indiana, Alabama, Wyoming, Mississippi, North Carolina, Nebraska, Texas, Utah, Idaho, Virginia, South Carolina and his native Kansas — all states carried by George Bush against Clinton in 1992.

Dole based his challenge to Clinton on a pledge of dramatic tax cuts and an indictment of Clinton's ethical record. Clinton asked for four more years by citing the 10 million new jobs and low unemployment that marked the first four.

The White House campaign offered a stark generational contrast, pitting a graying 50-year-old baby boomer against Dole, 73, a veteran of 35 years in Congress and the battlefields of World War II.

PRESIDENT RESULTS

Clinton

Popular: 49 percent
Electoral: Won 29 states and Washington, D.C., with 361 votes; leads in 5 states with 27 votes.

Dole

Popular: 41 percent
Electoral: Won 13 states with 113 votes; leads in 3 states with 29 votes.

Perot

Popular: 8 percent
Electoral: none; leads in none.

Results as of 11:30 p.m.

HOUSE

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And in South Dakota's at-large seat, Republican John Thune captured a seat vacated by Democrat Tim Johnson. In Mississippi, 33-year-old GOP Senate aide Chip Pickering captured the seat of retiring Democratic veteran Sonny Montgomery.

And former Republican Rep. Wes Watkins staged a comeback in Oklahoma to take a vacant Democratic seat.

Gingrich and House

Democratic leader Dick Gephardt easily won re-election.

Gephardt, the likely speaker if Democrats were to gain control, planned an election night celebration in downtown St. Louis.

Track star Jim Ryun, former world record holder in the mile, won an open Republican House seat in Kansas to join other Republican athletes, football star J.C. Watts of Oklahoma and major league pitcher Jim Bunning of Kentucky, in the House.

Voters interviewed in exit polls across the country were splitting evenly between Democratic and Republican House candidates;

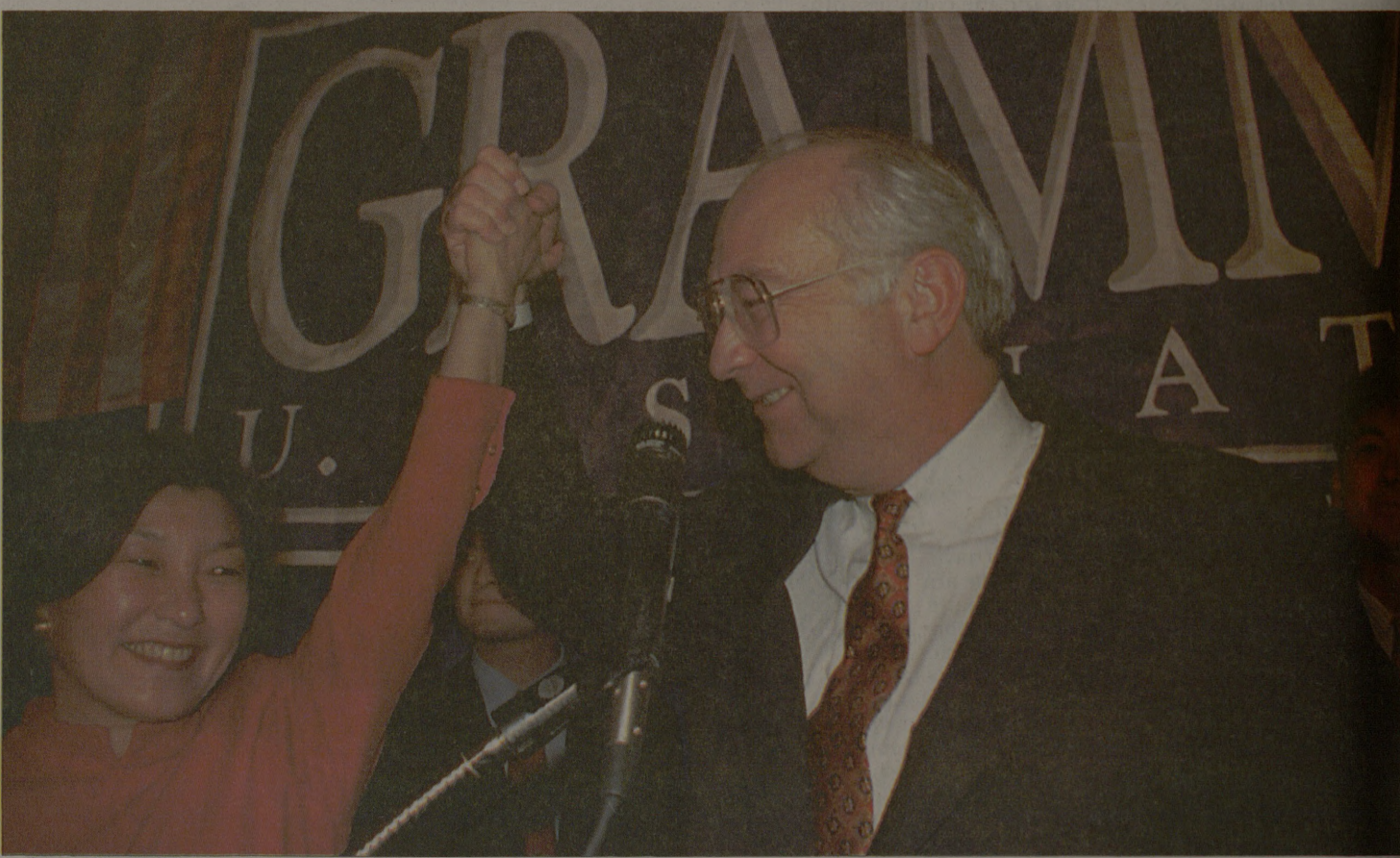
only in the South, where the GOP has grown in recent years, did Republicans appear to have a comfortable edge.

By a 51-45 margin, voters disapproved of Congress' performance under GOP leadership the past two years.

And by almost a 2-to-1 margin, those interviewed expressed a negative view of Gingrich, who was hoping for a second term as House speaker. Half of the voters surveyed said their view of the speaker played a role in their choice for U.S. representative.

The exit polls were conducted by Voter News Service.

A Gramm Old Party



U.S. Senator Phil Gramm celebrates his victory over Democratic challenger Victor Morales last night at the College Station Hilton with his wife Wendy.

Morales fairy tale ends with Gramm's victory

(AP) — The clock struck midnight on Victor Morales' fairy-tale bid for the U.S. Senate Tuesday, and the Democratic underdog did not go home with the glass slipper.

Republican incumbent Phil Gramm was the belle of the ball on this election night, coasting to victory over the high school government teacher who tried to ride into office in a pickup truck and on a shoestring budget.

"Today the people of Texas placed their faith in us," Gramm told about 300 cheering supporters who gathered in the College

Station Hilton ballroom to celebrate his third-term victory. "The people of Texas entrusted us with the future of our country, with the future of our children. So help me God, I will not let you down."

With 47 percent of precincts reporting, Gramm had 1,766,431 votes, or 56 percent. Morales had 1,359,736, or 43 percent. Two other candidates split the remainder.

"This ultimately got down to substance and issues, and when it did, we started to win," said Gramm, 54, who made a short-lived run for president before

dropping out and refocusing on his Senate campaign.

Branded Goliath in a battle between the power of incumbency and the lure of the little guy, Gramm declared the little guy had in fact won this contest.

"I'm David, the Goliath is big government," he said. "David won, because the issue is government and the role of government in a free society. My opponent wanted more government. I wanted more freedom, and I think that's the choice."

Morales remained unconventional to the end, refusing to concede defeat hours after Gramm was declared the winner.

"It's not over," he promised an enthusiastic crowd at a downtown Austin hotel.

Surrounded on stage by campaign volunteers, Morales said he was proud of their efforts and urged his supporters to stay involved in the political process.

"If by some miracle Phil Gramm does pull this out... please don't go back to cynicism. Don't go back to apathy," he said. "This race was about our rights. Take it on. No matter what the results, hold your head up high."

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