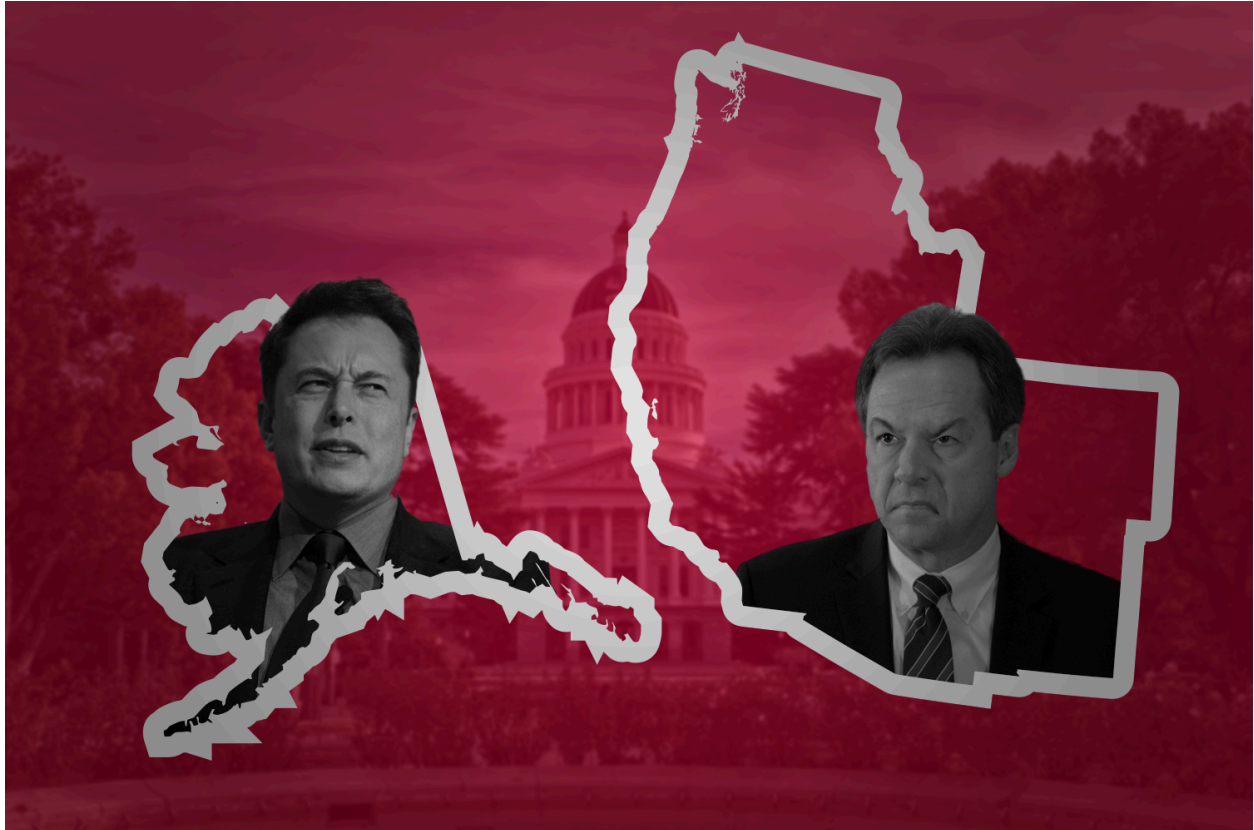


Why Sierra Matters

BY: DUNCAN LEWIS



After being obliterated in a national blue wave, can Republicans turn their fortune around? - Grand Old Paper GFX Team

The race for General Assembly in the state of Sierra is tight. While Democrats control the chamber after winning victory by the tiniest hair of a margin in the April 2020 state elections, they have not yet capitalized on their victory. As such, the state is very much in play. Sierra, for perhaps the first time ever, is truly a tossup.

Sierra was never always a very competitive state. The Democrats always swept the gubernatorial elections and the Republicans and Democrats would swap wins in the Assembly, usually by wide margins. It was quite boring on the whole. But Sierra was important because it did not mirror national politics. Sierra was always insulated from the outside world by the stubborn prevalence of two-party politics in the state. Aside from a brief interruption by independents during the last state election, Sierra has never had a 3rd party gain any significant portion of the vote in an election.

These facts, of course, do not have much to do with the political attitudes of Sierran citizens, but rather are the result of backroom political deals and coalitions between warring parties. The Democrats and Republicans, always eager to preserve any political edge they may have, purposefully worded any and all coalition deals signed by their parties to exclude electoral competition in Sierra.

But while Sierra was a two-party state on the state level, it was more so a one party state on the Federal level. Republican candidates repeatedly swept the House and Senate elections, often by quite comfortable margins. The Federal scene has been trending blue in recent elections, but the Republicans are still quite comfortable. Sierra was also trending Red, up until recently, on the state level. Republicans had just won 2 straight assembly elections in a row, by wide margins. They should have won the last assembly election too, but overconfidence in a comeback victory led turnout to suffer.

There's one key takeaway to be had from this information. While isolated from the broader political scene in America, Sierra's election results have always eerily echoed the broader political sphere. Sierra's election results have always captured the current political trends, and, sometimes, have predicted future political trends.

This is why the upcoming race for Sierra's General Assembly is so important. If Republicans win, it hints at a turning point in American politics. The American people have finally had enough of the Democrats and their scheming and will turn out en-masse to vote them out. Or, at least, that is what conventional political understandings would have us believe. The truth is that politics is more complex than that. People ditch political parties all of the time for little reason--even forming political waves in the process.

But no matter the reason for a mass political turnout against the Democrats, it should be seen as a repudiation of their governance and Republican leadership should work double time to recreate it around the country in the upcoming Federal elections.

It isn't over until it's over. Republicans bounced back from Obama, the New Deal coalition, and the disastrous 1876 election. We can bounce back from this.