This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Charlie Bermant with news and commentary for Wednesday, November 6, 2024.

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The *Jefferson County Beacon*, normally heard at this time, will return next week. Most of the results from yesterday's elections are in, with Republicans winning the presidency and the US Senate. Although three states have yet to report, Donald Trump earned 277 electoral votes to Kamala Harris' 224.

The House of Representatives is still in play. Locally, Democrat Emily Randall bested Republican Drew MacEwan to succeed Representative Derek Kilmer. Statewide, the party balance in our representatives remained the same: eight Democrats to two Republicans.

Clallam County's streak of voting for the winner in the presidential election contest ended. It supported Harris with 54% of the vote. Clallam was the last bellwether county in the United States, we were told, correctly predicting every election since 1980.

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Democratic US Senator Maria Cantwell easily won re-election to a fifth term, beating back Republican challenger Dr. Raul Garcia.

Jefferson County came out for Harris with 74% of the vote. Jefferson has correctly predicted the winner in elections where Democrats have prevailed. We boasted an 80.4% ballot return rate, the highest in the state. Only Garfield County in the southeastern part of the state, reported 80.1%. Clallam had a 76% turnout rate, and Kitsap reported 67%.

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. drew 148 votes in Jefferson, despite his stated support for Trump and the news that he'll be part of the new president's inner circle.

US Representative Marie Glusenkamp Perez won a second term. Perez' predecessor, Jaime Herrera Butler, lost the seat in 2022 after she voted to impeach Donald Trump. Herrera Butler then ran for Lands Commissioner but lost to Dave Upthegrove – who edged his opponent in the primary by under 50 votes. Upthegrove will succeed Hilary Franz, who ran to succeed Rep. Kilmer. Franz lost in the primary to Emily Randall, despite Kilmer's endorsement.

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Washington elected a full slate of Democrats on the state level, winning all of the partisan statewide office. Bob Ferguson will be the new governor, with Democrats claiming open seats for Attorney General and Lands Commissioner. Ferguson defeated Republican challenger Dave Reichert, 56% to 43%. Ferguson will become the first new Washington governor in twelve years, continuing the Democratic hold on the office that goes back to the 1980s.

Democrats also swept the 24th Legislative District. Representative Steve Tharinger won a seventh term. Adam Bernbaum won the representative seat vacated by Mike Chapman, who successfully was elected state senator.

Heather Dudley Nollette was elected as the new Jefferson County District 1 commissioner, drawing 75% of the vote against Ben Thomas' 23%. Thomas will continue to serve on the Port Townsend City Council.

District 2 Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour was unopposed in her bid for a second term. She drew 97% support, with the remainder a handful of write-ins.

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Port Townsend exists in a blue bubble, with people expressing surprise that anyone would ever support Donald Trump. How can they not see the light? Yesterday's results prove that a majority of the country feel the same way about us.

The Democratic sweep on the West Coast – Washington, Oregon, and California – showed a leftward tilt in that part of the country. Democrats will be in control of state government, which can more affect our everyday lives. So if Donald Trump keeps his promise to "leave it to the states to decide" our lefty way of life will be protected.

So it's over – what was called the most consequential election of our lifetime, no matter how old you are. Whatever happened, half the country was guaranteed to be disappointed. Blue-bubble Jefferson will be disappointed this time, but things always bounce back. And the nation will survive, in one form or another.

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KPTZ broadcasts local news at noon and 5pm Monday through Friday and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us through at news@kptz.org. I'm Charlie Bermant. Thank you for listening.