By Staff and
Wire Reports

Voters across America made it clear in the general election Tuesday they desire a more conservative approach to government. With the exception of second district Democratic Congressman Dan Boren, who won by his narrowest margin ever, Republicans posted a virtual clean sweep of major Oklahoma races. Boren carried Choctaw County by his narrowest margin ever, 2,218-1,784. Statewide, his margin was also his shortest ever: 108,184 (56.52%) to 83,215 (43.48%) over challenger Charles Thompson, who carried three Choctaw County precincts: 101, 106, 322.

Mary Fallin will be Oklahoma's first female governor, after walloping Jari Askins by more than 200,000 votes. (625,433—409,206). Fallin carried Choctaw County as well, by the margin of 2,227-1,843.

In the Lt. Governor's race, Todd Lamb cruised over Democrat Kenneth Corn by more than 300,000 votes (659,175—334,663). Lamb also carried Choctaw County: 2,095-1815).

In the St. Auditor and Inspector's race, Republican Gary Jones defeated Steve Burrage 570,104 to 449,095. A well-known native of neighboring Pushmataha County, Burrage carried Choctaw County by a 2,212-1,804 margin.

Republican Janet Barresi also cruised over Susan Paddack with a significant margin (573,652—386,958). Paddack carried Choctaw County by a 2,048-1,668 margin.

Republican Mark Costello cruised over incumbent Labor Commissioner Lloyd FIelds, 649,672—362,753. Costello carried Choctaw County by a 2,190-1,765 margin.

Incumbent Insurance Commissioner Kim Holland was defeated by Republican John Doak, 555,677—464,247. Doak also carried Choctaw County: 2,043-1,930.

U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn appeared to be riding a wave of voter approval, garnering the widest margin of victory among major candidates with 70% of the vote over Democrat Jim Rogers, and two Independents. Coburn was also favored by Choctaw County voters by a considerable margin: 2,514-1,304.

Incumbent District Judge Willard Driesel retained his seat over challenger J.P. Longacre by a 956 vote three-county margin. Driesel's won all three counties by the following margins:

McCurtain (4,345—3,712).
Choctaw (2,047—1,814).
Pushmataha (1,600—1,510).

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