

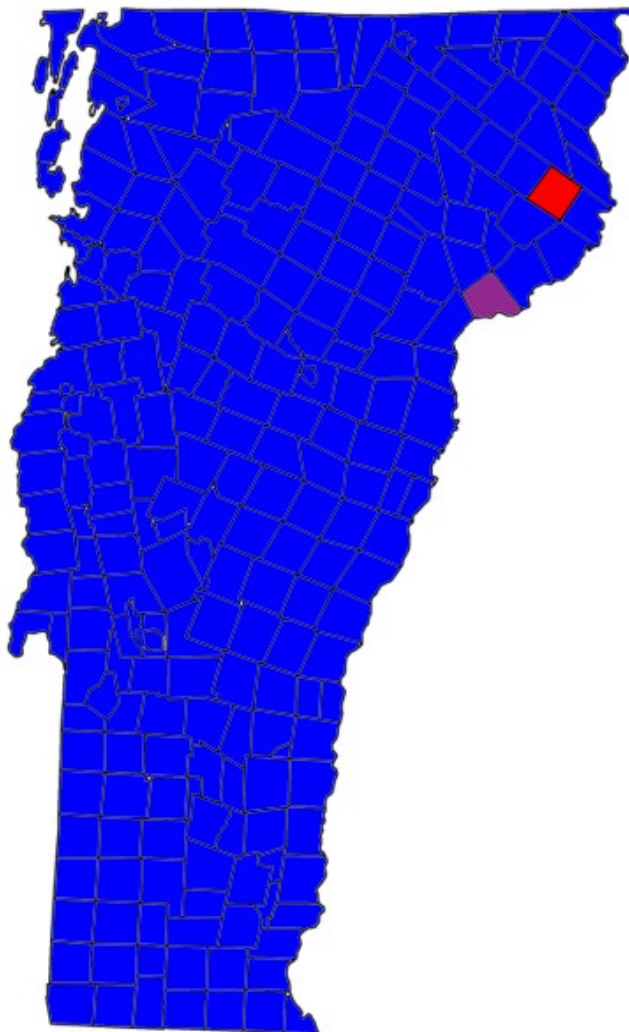
2006 United States Senate election in Vermont

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Results by town. Blue indicates a win by Sanders, red a win by Tarrant, and purple a tie.

2006 United States Senate election in Vermont

- *The state committee of the Vermont Democratic Party voted unanimously to endorse Sanders.*
- *Sanders represented Vermont's at-large House district as an independent, won the Democratic primary and then dropped out to run as an independent.*
- *The 2006 United States Senate election in Vermont was held November 7, 2006.*

The 2006 United States Senate election in Vermont was held November 7, 2006. Incumbent independent Senator Jim Jeffords decided to retire rather than seek re-election to a fourth term in office and Bernie Sanders was elected to succeed him.

Sanders represented Vermont's at-large House district as an independent, won the Democratic primary and then dropped out to run as an independent. Many Democratic politicians across the country endorsed Sanders, and no Democrat was on the ballot. The state committee of the Vermont Democratic Party voted unanimously to endorse Sanders.

Sanders won the open seat with 65% of the vote. Sanders' win marked the first Republican loss for this seat in 144 years, ending the longest single party Senate winning streak in history.

Democratic primary

Candidates

- *Bernie Sanders, U.S. Representative*

Four candidates ran in the primary:

Larry Drown, retired plumber and perennial candidate

Peter D. Moss, a Republican and retired chemical engineer

Louis W. Thabault, former postal worker

Bernie Sanders, U.S. Representative

Results

- *This victory ensured that no Democrat would appear on the general election ballot to split the vote with Sanders, an ally of the Democrats, who has been supported by leaders in the Democratic Party.*
- *Sanders won the Democratic primary, but declined the nomination, leaving no Democratic nominee on the ballot.*

Sanders won the Democratic primary, but declined the nomination, leaving no Democratic nominee on the ballot. This victory ensured that no Democrat would appear on the general election ballot to split the vote with Sanders, an ally of the Democrats, who has been supported by leaders in the Democratic Party.

Republican primary

Candidates

- *Richard Tarrant, businessman*

Cris Ericson, perennial candidate

Greg Parke, retired lieutenant colonel

Richard Tarrant, businessman

Results

- *Tarrant won.*

Tarrant won.

General election

Candidates

- *Bernie Sanders (I)*

Pete Diamondstone (Liberty Union)

Cris Ericson (I)

Craig Hill (Green), electronics marketer

Peter Moss (I)

Bernie Sanders (I)

Richard Tarrant (R)

Campaign

- *In mid-August 2006, the campaign heated up considerably, with Tarrant fully engaged in heavy media advertising, most of which criticized Sanders' public stances.*

- *Tarrant ran several ads accusing Sanders of representing himself differently from his voting record in the House of Representatives, citing such examples as Sanders' votes against Amber Alert and against increased penalties for child pornography.*

In mid-August 2006, the campaign heated up considerably, with Tarrant fully engaged in heavy media advertising, most of which criticized Sanders' public stances. Tarrant ran several ads accusing Sanders of representing himself differently from his voting record in the House of Representatives, citing such examples as Sanders' votes against Amber Alert and against increased penalties for child pornography. Sanders responded with an ad stating that Tarrant's claims are "dishonest" and "distort my record" and presented what he viewed as more accurate explanations of his voting record.

Endorsements

- *Sanders was endorsed by prominent Democrats such as DNC Chairman and former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, and Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.*
- *Since Sanders was allied with the Democrats in the House of Representatives, Democratic leadership successfully dissuaded any serious challengers from their party.*

Since Sanders was allied with the Democrats in the House of Representatives, Democratic leadership successfully dissuaded any serious challengers from their party. Sanders was endorsed by prominent Democrats such as DNC Chairman and former Vermont Governor Howard Dean, Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, and Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the chairman of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. On February 13, 2005 Sanders received an endorsement from Democracy for America, the political action committee that was founded by Dean after he withdrew from the 2004 Presidential race.

Fundraising

- *Sanders raised \$5,554,466 total.*
- *In total, Tarrant and Sanders spent \$13,771,060.*
- *Tarrant spent \$85 per vote, the largest cost per vote of any race in the country during 2006, while Sanders spent \$34 per vote.*
- *The election was the most expensive political campaign in Vermont history.*

The election was the most expensive political campaign in Vermont history.

Tarrant was a self-funded candidate, with 98% of all his campaign expenditures coming from personal sources. He spent \$7,315,854 total. Sanders' top contributors include the plaintiffs' law firm Baron & Budd; the International Union of Operating Engineers; the Laborers' International Union of North America; and the Communication Workers of America. Sanders raised \$5,554,466 total. In total, Tarrant and Sanders spent \$13,771,060. Tarrant spent \$85 per vote, the largest cost per vote of any race in the country during 2006, while Sanders spent \$34 per vote.

Polling

Results

- *Official results from the Vermont United States Senate.*
- *Sanders won a majority of the votes in every county in the state, with 57% as his lowest county total.*

Official results from the Vermont United States Senate.

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See also

- *United States Senate elections, 2006*

United States Senate elections, 2006

References

External links

- *(Final version due to be released on July 24, 2006).*
- *Bernie Sanders*

Vermont Secretary of State's Draft list of candidates (Excel spreadsheet). (Final version due to be released on July 24, 2006).

Official campaign websites (Archived)

Bernie Sanders

Richard Tarrant