## William Adams

Election Day has come and gone, but the results (and ramifications) are not completely settled.

After all precincts reported, Matt Bevin found himself about 5,000 votes shy of winning reelection. His response to this was to hurl unsubstantiated (and unspecified) accusations of voter fraud, refuse to concede the election, and request a recanvassing of the votes.

What has followed has been an interesting turn of events as Kentucky waits to see, officially, who their next governor will be.

Many republican members of the Kentucky General Assembly have now publicly stated that they believe Bevin should concede the election and "move on" according to articles published this week by both the Lexington Herald and Louisville Courier-Journal.

The latter featured an article by Joe Sonka and Deborah Yetter wherein they quote Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers, a republican representing Kentucky's 25<sup>th</sup> district, as saying Bevin should concede as early as this week, following the recanvassing (which is not expected to change the results).

This isn't a guarantee though.

Under the rules of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, Bevin does have additional recourse should the recanvassing go as expected. He could make a case for an issue with the election and request a recount and then could even contest the entire election, which could bring the election to the Kentucky General Assembly to settle.

But these steps seem very unlikely and are honestly a waste of time. More and more Republican members of the Assembly are coming out to say they believe the election results from Tuesday night are legitimate, making it unlikely they'd change their minds even if Bevin did get the results put before the Assembly (which is again, a longshot).

It's not surprising, as Bevin has wasted plenty of time, money, and resources during his tumultuous stint as Kentucky's governor. So why wouldn't he do the same (or at least try to) on the way out?

Possibly lost in all of this is Andy Beshear's apparent victory. His win was made possible by flipping many Eastern Kentucky counties from red to blue, a feat which he was assisted with by Rocky Adkins, representative of Kentucky's 99<sup>th</sup> district.

Adkins has been a very popular figure in the eastern part of the state, an area in which he won during the Democratic primary for Governor earlier this year. So, while much was said about Bevin's use of Trump and Pence in this race, it would appear that Adkins' association with Beshear may have been the tipping point for Democrats taking back the governorship.

And perhaps Adkins will play a different role in the 2020 elections next year.

There has been a lot of speculation about how this election may impact the 2020 elections, where both Trump and Kentucky Senator Mitch McConnell will both be on the ballot. It doesn't appear that Kentucky was turning away from the republican party (as every down ballot republican running statewide won this past Tuesday) so the impact on these races might be minimal by the time November 2020 rolls around.

But, the "Rocky Adkins Effect" might be felt in another 2020 election, that being Kentucky's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

With an aging Hal Rogers (who turns 82 at the end of this year) still yet to officially file for reelection, it's possible Adkins' could seek to take this seat. With his popularity spanning much of the 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (including Adkins' home of Rowan County) it wouldn't be farfetched to think Adkins might consider throwing his hat into this ring.

We'll have to wait to see if that becomes a reality, just as we'll have to wait to see how long Bevin will draw what appears to be his inevitable loss.