

## Mid-term New York election was “historical,” says political analyst

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Benjamin: "... no real great presence of the Republican Party in governance"

NEW PALTZ – The Democratic Party takeover of the State Senate as a result Tuesday’s election, solidifies New York’s long-term political bent, according to a regional political analyst.

The Senate has been in Republican hands until now. Two area Senate seats held by retiring Republicans – William Larkin and John Bonacic – are going to Democrats.

Gerald Benjamin, SUNY New Paltz associate vice president for Regional Engagement and director of the Benjamin Center, called the election “historical” with the Democratic Party successes on Tuesday.

“Not only the sweep of statewide seats, which was expected, but takeover of the Senate, which is decisive and I think will persist through the redistricting, which will cement it and Democratic control of both houses and make this essentially a Democratic state, much like Massachusetts, with occasional victories statewide by prominent Republicans, but no real great presence of the Republican Party in governance on the state level,” he said.

Benjamin discounted the comparison of the GOP New York Senate takeover by

Democrats to the US House of Representatives' from Republican to Democrat majority. He said there is always the likelihood of Congress flipping again, but he said New York is solidly Democrat and it will stay that way.

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