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The U.S. Senate will have a record number of women, ranging from the first Asian-American woman elected, to consumer advocate and Harvard professor Elizabeth Warren.

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CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

Transcript
Women Candidates Excel in 2012 Elections
BRIAN WILLIAMS, anchor:
And so many races, so many results, Andrea Mitchell here with us with more on what happened last night.
ANDREA MITCHELL, reporting:
A lot happened last night. When it was all over, the House remained Republican, the Senate remained Democratic, but that doesn’t mean that a lot didn’t change in the election last night.
REPRESENTATIVE TODD AKIN (R-Missouri): It seems to me, first of all, from what I--
MITCHELL: In a year when a male Senate candidate talked about legitimate rape and Mitt Romney spoke awkwardly about binders full of women, the voters made it the year of the woman. The new Senate will have 20 women a record, including five women elected last night, ranging from the first Asian-American woman elected to the Senate to consumer advocate and Harvard professor Elizabeth Warren, who defeated Republican Scott Brown in Massachusetts.
ELIZABETH WARREN: You better believe we're going to fight for equal pay for equal work.
MITCHELL: In Wisconsin, Tammy Baldwin will be the first openly gay member of what used to be called the world’s most exclusive men’s club.
TAMMY BALDWIN: I will be a senator for all of Wisconsin.
MITCHELL: As for those Republican candidates--Richard Mourdock and Todd Akin--who made controversial comments about rape, they both lost. Akin to Missouri’s Claire McCaskill, who held on to her Senate seat. And Tammy Duckworth, an Iraq War double amputee, won a House seat in Illinois. In New Hampshire, all the top elected officials are now women--the governor, both senators, and the members of Congress. Democrats started recruiting women candidates almost two years ago.
SENATOR PATTY MURRAY (D-Washington): Almost at the beginning of the time when the Republicans came into power in the House in the first few bills they put out, took away a woman’s right to choose.
MITCHELL: For the first time, white men will be in the minority among House Democrats. But House Republicans will be more white and male, although Michele Bachmann won her race. This election also saw gains for same sex marriage. Two states, Maryland and Maine, became the first to vote for gay marriage. And Washington State and Colorado voted to legalize recreational marijuana. Massachusetts legalized it for medicinal use only.

WILLIAMS: In plain English, there's a whole lot of weed on the ballot in a whole lot of places tonight. MITCHELL: But pot didn’t do so well in Oregon and Arkansas, where voters defeated legalization. Still as the poet once said the times they are a changing. Brian.

WILLIAMS: Oh boy, are they ever? Andrea Mitchell after a long night. Thanks for being with us tonight.