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### **Elections Bring Insurance Commissioners Changes**

There were elections for insurance commissioner in five states last week: **Delaware, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota** and **Washington**.

**Delaware** Insurance Commissioner Matt Denn left office to run for Lieutenant Governor and was elected on the Democratic ticket. Karen Weldin-Stewart was elected as the new Insurance Commissioner. She also is a Democrat.

Democrat Monica Lindeen was elected as the State Auditor in **Montana**. That position also serves as the Insurance Commissioner. She replaces John Morrison, a Democrat, who lost in the 2006 primaries in a bid for the U.S. Senate and did not seek re-election as Insurance Commissioner.

Long time deputy commissioner Wayne Goodwin was elected as the **North Carolina** Insurance Commissioner. He is a Democrat like Jim Long, who he replaces. Commissioner Long is retiring after 23 years in office.

Incumbent Insurance Commissioner Adam Hamm, a Republican, was narrowly elected over his Democratic challenger in **North Dakota**. Commissioner Hamm was appointed to complete the term of Jim Poolman, who resigned mid-term last year to go into private practice.

**Washington** Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler, a Democrat, easily won re-election.

**Missouri** Governor Matt Blunt did not seek re-election. Jay Nixon, the State Attorney General, won the Governor's race, which shifted the Governor's mansion to the Democrats in Missouri. The new Governor will appoint the insurance commissioner so that may mean a change in the future.

**Nevada** still has a nationwide search to fill the open position of Insurance Commissioner, which is an appointment of Republican Governor Jim Gibbons. **Oregon** has named Teresa Miller as Acting Insurance Administrator. She replaces Scott Kipper, who resigned after only eight months in the job. Acting Administrator Miller was Deputy Administrator under Scott Kipper. Because Governor Ted Kulongoski is midway in his second term as Governor and is term limited after that, a new Insurance Administrator may not be appointed until after the next gubernatorial election.