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## Swalm re-elected

### At a glance

Republican incumbent wins despite Democratic climate

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Despite the fact that Arapahoe County has more registered Democratic voters, and Barack Obama won the county, Republicans held their own in some state Senate and House races.

In the state House District 37 race, Republican incumbent Spencer Swalm was re-elected.

Swalm received 51 percent of the vote against Democratic candidate Diana Holland.

"I won by a bigger margin than I did last time," Swalm said. "If the third-party candidate hadn't been there, I think it would be signifi-

cantly larger. And obviously I have the advantage of incumbency, which counts for something."

In 2006, Swalm beat Democratic opponent Angela Engel by only a 1.8 percent margin, fewer than 800 votes.

Although Swalm attributes his victory, in part to incumbency, other prominent Republicans fared differently.

"It's not just a cinch because you're an incumbent," Swalm said. "There were a lot of Republican incumbents, including Carolyn Musgrave, who lost."

Despite those losses, the Republican Party did pick up two seats.

Swalm said he also was pleased with voters' decision to "rebu-



Swalm

Gov. Ritter's scheme to raise energy taxes."

"People spoke pretty clearly that they're not interested in higher taxes," he said. "If the Democrats at the national level govern on platform that they ran on, I don't think it will be very popular here in Col-

orado. It doesn't look like there's a great appetite in this state for higher taxes."

Swalm, a longtime champion for affordable health insurance, worked to reform health care in his first two years in the state Legislature.

With a new administration coming on board in January, Swalm is

anxious to see how Barack Obama will progress on his own plans for health care reform.

"I think [health care] is one of those areas where I think it would be easy to overreach," Swalm said. "Fifty percent of all money that goes through our health care systems is either in veterans programs, Medicare or Medicaid. With both of those you see people rationing it. A lot of people aren't on to that."

Swalm was elected to the House in 2006 and serves on both the House Health and Human Services Committee and the House Transportation and Energy Committee.

Holland did not return phone calls for comment.

For Republican incumbent Nancy Spence, the state Senate District 27 race was what Swalm might call "a cinch."

By 12:45 a.m. Nov. 5, Spence had captured 58 percent (46,915) of the vote. Democratic opponent Nathan Wilkes had 42 percent (33,762).

"It's an honor to represent the 27th Senate District — which includes portions of Arapahoe County from Deer Trail on the east through Greenwood Village on the west," Spence said.

Nathan Wilkes did not return phone calls for comment.