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F. Jodi Rell

Posted on September 30th, 2010 by Steve Macoy



When you think of left-wing, liberal, big-spending, public-employee-union-owned governors, you naturally go first to the list of Democrats: Jon Corzine of New Jersey (since replaced by conservative hero Chris Christie); Deval Patrick of Massachusetts; Jennifer Granholm of Michigan; Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania. You might throw in RINO Arnold Schwarzenegger of California to provide a hint of partisan balance.

And what does this rogue’s gallery of lefties have in common? They all fared better than Connecticut Gov. M. Jodi Rell in a [report card](#) of governors by the libertarian Cato Institute. (For a summary, [here’s](#) a link to today’s Wall Street Journal editorial on the report card.)

Gov. Rell was one of just seven governors to receive a failing grade. The other six were Democrats. The lefties cited above all got passing grades.

The governors are graded on their fiscal performance from a limited-government perspective. The governors receiving an “A” are those who cut taxes and spending the most, while the governors receiving an “F” raised taxes and spending the most. The grading mechanism is based on seven variables, including two spending variables, one revenue variable and four tax-rate variables.

We hold out virtually no hope Republicans will take control of either house in the legislature, but it seems likely they’ll gain enough seats to shatter the Democrats’ vaunted supermajority status, giving the next governor meaningful veto power. (Certainly, it could be argued the Democratic legislature owns Gov. Rell’s failing grade.) Polls show there’s a chance Republican Tom Foley will succeed her. But even if he doesn’t, we’re cautiously optimistic that Democrat Dan Malloy, a former mayor of somewhat conservative Stamford, will try a lot harder than Gov. Rell did to actually manage state government, which assuredly will mean clamping down on the legislature’s free-spending ways with whatever tools he has at his disposal.

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