Democrats take control of Senate for first time in decade

Three senators sworn in shifting balance of chamber

By Branca Dow

Three new senators were sworn in Wednesday afternoon, delivering control of the chamber to Democrats and cementing the party’s grip on all the non-defense political power in Washington for the first time in a decade.

Taking the oath of office were Sen. Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, the winners of Georgia’s special elections this month, and Sen. Alex Padilla, picked by California’s governor to fill the seat of Vice President Kamala Harris.

Mr. Harris, who as vice president serves as presiding officer of the Senate, also gives Democrats the tie-breaking vote, and thus the control of the chamber, which otherwise is divided with 50 Republicans and 50 members of the White Coat Waste Project, a non-profit that has been pushing animal retirement efforts, wrote the dems.

Republicans have worked with federal agencies to match.

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Outgoing EPA head orders last-minute pardon to agency’s research rabbits

By Branca Dow

Outgoing EPA chief Andrew R. Wheeler issued a memo on Wednesday directing the White Coat to retire the last of the bunnies in the EPA’s taxpayer-funded animal research laboratories. A first step in escaping potential poisons would likely be to consult with other parts of the federal government that have accumulated similar animal experimentation offers,” wrote Alexandra Dupuis.

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Vice President Kamala D. Harris swears in Sen. Raphael Warnock (left), Sen. Alex Padilla (center) and Sen. Jon Ossoff on the floor of the Senate on Wednesday. Mr. Warnock and Mr. Padilla were on the floor of the Senate to retire the last of the bunnies in the EPA’s taxpayer-funded animal research laboratories. A first step in escaping potential poisons would likely be to consult with other parts of the federal government that have accumulated similar animal experimentation offers,” wrote Alexandra Dupuis.

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