

now outnumber independents. But one reason is that Democratic ranks have grown while independents make up a smaller percentage of the electorate. And in Ocean County, Democratic registration grew from 15 percent to 20 percent of voters.

Ocean County Republican Chairman George Gilmore said that growth had been caused by new residents, who could eventually be persuaded to switch affiliation.

“We have had a lot of Democratic voters move down here from New York,” he said. “But I think the numbers show we can in the long run show them what a well-run government we have in this region, and bring them to our side.”

A Press analysis of town-by-town registration data shows where the Democratic and Republican

“I think the electorate respond to candidates, and respond to their backgrounds,” Magazzu said Thursday. He said early voting this cycle suggested that Democrats were closing what had been described as the “enthusiasm gap” between Republicans and Democrats.

The Hispanic population, which is the largest racial or ethnic minority, has grown the most in numbers statewide. Hispanics account for a quarter of Cumberland County’s population and 15 percent of Atlantic County’s population. The Pew Hispanic Center reported three years ago that 57 percent of Hispanics identified with the Democrats, and two-thirds voted for Obama in the 2008 election.

Sharon Schulman, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at Richard Stockton College of New Jersey, said changes in income and employment demographics also played a part in Democratic increases in the Atlantic City area.

“The other part is the increase in nonmanagement working people and laborers. Look at the
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Ray Theriault Nov 2

Roger Hadenuff, I hear what your saying about the last administration nearly destroying this country and how we are crazy to give them another chance. I agree that's why I voted Republican....You see the democrats have held the house and senate since 2007 and controlled all the spending and policy making, nearly destroying this country. I agree it's time for a change !!

Roger Hadenuff Nov 2

I'm sorry John. You must have been out of the country. This mess started 18 months before President Obama took office.

Roger Hadenuff Nov 1

I don't know about you, but I will not vote to give the old regime another chance to finish off our economy. The last time the Republicans were in charge, they kicked over the lantern on their way
