

STATE LEGISLATURE

Landis, Price, Raikes headed for Capitol

BY ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

Marian Price was elected to the Nebraska Legislature on Tuesday night, thanks to what she called a strong grass-roots campaign.

Price defeated her opponent, Ed Schneider, in a narrow race — 52 percent to 48 percent — winning by an unofficial margin of 208 votes, with 85 percent of Lancaster County precincts reporting.

A member of the Lincoln School Board for the past 14 years, Price will now take a seat in District 26, vacated last year by former Sen. Don Wesely.

Price said she intends to make the Legislature her full-time job.

"I am prepared for this length of service," she said. "I'm excited, I'm energized, and I'm ready."

Some of the important issues Price plans to work on during her term, she said, are providing good, affordable health care to all citizens, providing property tax relief and ensuring safety in the cities.

Though she expected to win the election, Price said she wasn't surprised at the close victory.

"I commend Ed Schneider for a very positive campaign," she said. "I worked hard, he worked hard."

Schneider called the race a "life experience" for him.

"I am glad that I have had the opportunity to do this," he said. "I've met thousands of incredibly nice people doing so."

District 46

State Sen. Dave Landis was re-elected to the Nebraska Legislature on Tuesday evening by an unofficial margin of 1,591 votes.

Landis defeated opponent Edward

University of Nebraska Regents		
Candidate	District	% of votes
John W. Payne (18,041)	6	45%
Kent Schroeder (21,814)	6	55%
Don Blank (30,748)	7	71%
David Baugher (12,554)	7	29%

77% of votes counted

Price to ensure his sixth term as senator representing District 46.

Landis said one of the more important issues he will face during this term is "continuing to try to do something on property taxes."

His prior service in office was an advantage to his re-election, he said.

"I've spent a long time in political service, and to have the continued confidence from the district is humbling and quite an honor."

District 25

Sen. Ronald Raikes was elected to the Legislature on Tuesday in a landslide victory.

Raikes defeated Dennis Zager by winning 71 percent of the votes, a 2,598-point margin based on unofficial results. He was originally appointed senator in 1997 after the death of former Sen. Jerome Warner.

"I'm very pleased and very humbled the voters in the district have placed their confidence in me," he said. "My sincere hope is that they won't be disappointed."

Raikes said he is interested in such issues as school finance and tax issues.

And he said he was proud to represent his district.

"There's a lot of really successful people in that district in a number of different ways," he said. "It's a challenge to represent these people."

NU REGENTS

Payne voted out; Blank stays put in regent race

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

A landslide and a nail-biter defined the NU Board of Regents election Tuesday night, with incumbent Don Blank of McCook winning with 71 percent and his fellow incumbent John Payne losing by 10 percentage points.

In preliminary results, Blank, a District 7 regent since 1986 and a McCook dentist, captured 77 percent of the vote, while his challenger David Baugher of Stockville received 29 percent.

Payne, a District 6 regent since 1980 and president of a Kearney furniture store, lost to Kent Schroeder 45 percent to 55 percent in unofficial results Tuesday night.

Schroeder, who is a 55-year-old attorney with the Ross, Schroeder and Romatzke Law Firm, said Payne had the benefit of the endorsement of Gov. Ben Nelson and prominent Grand Island and Kearney citizens, as well as the capability to raise more money.

Schroeder said he chose to run because of inadequacies some Kearney residents saw in Payne's performance.

People have commented that Payne has lost his focus. He leaves behind 18 years of service to the NU system.

State Senators		
Candidate	District	% of votes
Ron Raikes (4,448)	25	71%
Dennis Zager (1,850)	25	29%
Marian L. Price (3,158)	26	52%
Ed Schneider (2,950)	26	48%
David M. Landis (2,508)	46	73%
Edward C. Price (917)	46	27%

77% of votes counted

Payne, contacted at his home Tuesday night, would not comment on his past experience on the board.

During 12 of the 18 years Payne has been a regent, Blank has been at the decision-making table with him at regents' meetings once a month.

Blank said he was pleased with his victory against challenger David Baugher, a Stockville carpenter with no-known telephone number. He could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

Blank said drastic change will not define the next six years of his stay on the board because a lot of things remain static through the years.

"I don't think it will be a lot different," Blank said. "The issues change, and things come and go, but we are striving for the same things we were striving for in 1987 — to provide a quality education at an affordable price."