

Exon takes lead; totals 'somewhat of a surprise'

By Randy Gordon

Calling the election vote totals "somewhat of a surprise," Democratic Gov. J. James Exon advanced to a commanding lead Tuesday night in his bid for re-election as Nebraska's governor.

Exon, at 2 a.m. held 50 per cent of the vote with 221,419 votes and 87 per cent of the precincts reporting.

"We thought we would win 54 per cent to 56 per cent of the vote, so if we near the 60 per cent total, it is a tremendous

vote of confidence," Exon said. "After four years in office, anything over 50 per cent of the vote is a vote of confidence, since you can't make everyone happy during that time."

During remarks made at the Knolls, Exon thanked voters for "your tremendous support and vote of confidence. What is most rewarding is the fact that the vote appears to be positive, strong and uniform all across the state."

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State Sen. Richard Marvel, the Republican gubernatorial candidate from Hastings, said in a midnight speech he was not ready to concede defeat.

Marvel, in a five-minute speech at the Villager Motel, said, "If anybody asks me if I concede defeat, the answer is hell no. I've never lost a fight in my life and I don't intend to acknowledge defeat at the moment."

Marvel unofficially held a total of 130,030 votes 35 or 35 per cent of the total.

The Hastings senator then turned to the prospects of a possible defeat, saying that he will "be in the forefront of the fights in the next session of the

Legislature. And I'm not going to give in to anyone who's going to try to take my chairmanship away from me. I'm going to fight all the way," he continued.

Marvel is now chairman of the Unicameral's Appropriations Committee and will hold his legislative seat for another two years.

"We've uncovered some very interesting things about state government (during the campaign)," Marvel added. "And we're going to continue to follow the lead we've found because Nebraskans deserve top state government. To the best of my ability, we're going to see that they get it."

State Sen. Ernest Chambers of Omaha, the independent candidate, had 21,165 votes or six per cent of the unofficial total with 87 per cent of the precincts reporting.

He said, through his candidacy, that he had learned much about the state and what the voters wanted. Chambers said he also learned that he does not have a "very high rating" among people throughout the state.

Exon refused to discuss priorities for his second administration, saying that the reception at the Knolls was a campaign celebration and that the "more weighty matters of what we'll do in the next term" should wait for a more appropriate setting.

Lieutenant governor-elect Gerald Whelan of Hastings said he hopes "we can avoid the problem of 'us against them' (the Legislature) in the next session. I hope I and the Legislature can adopt a policy of trust."

Whelan, as lieutenant governor, will serve as presiding officer of the Unicameral.



Photo by Steve Boerner

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Outlook pessimistic

Regent issue 'close'

By John Kalkowski

Nebraska voters were evenly divided Tuesday night on proposed Constitutional Amendment One, "the Student Regent Amendment".

At issue in the amendment was the question of adding three nonvoting student members to the eight-member NU Board of Regents.

At 3 a.m., preliminary reports from 70 per cent of the Nebraska precincts showed the amendment rejected. Votes against the amendment totaled 123,533 to a close 120,014 votes for the amendment. The vote was split at 51 per cent opposed to 49 per cent supporting.

"This is going to go right down to the wire," said Ron Clingenpeel, ASUN president. The vote was so close that the outcome might depend on the absentee ballots and "most absentee ballots are student votes," he said.

"We are expecting some late support from the western part of the state," Clingenpeel said.

The student regent amendment would have placed the student body presidents of UNL, UNO and the NU Medical Center on the Board of Regents.

Most of the major candidates for office in Nebraska supported the amendment. Present Regents Kermit Hansen, Edward Schwartzkopf and Robert Koefoot have expressed opposition to the amendment. Two regents, incumbent Robert Raun and James Moylan supported the amendment.

The move to place students of the Board of Regents began when State Sen. Richard Marvel, the defeated Republican candidate for governor, introduced a bill which called for the student body presidents to share one vote on the board. The original bill was killed, but a compromise version which rejected the student vote was placed on the ballot.

Preliminary returns from 65 per cent of the precincts indicated that there will be one new member on the NU Board of Regents. John P. Olson, an Alliance cattle feeder, led Robert Simmons, a Scottsbluff attorney, by 13,806 to 12,091 votes in the Sixth District.

Incumbent Robert Raun, a farmer and livestock feeder from Minden, narrowly led Harold Kay, a North Platte attorney, 14,531 votes to 14,449 with 68 precincts reporting.

Thone defeats Dyas' House bid

By Lynn Silhasek

Unofficial election results showed incumbent Reps. Charles Thone and John McCollister as victors in their bids for re-election in their districts.

With 89 per cent of the precinct reporting at 2 a.m., Thone held a four per cent lead over Democratic candidate Hess Dyas. Thone had 67,941 votes, 52 per cent of the vote. Dyas followed closely with 48 per cent of the vote, receiving 62,545 votes.

In the 2nd District, with 95 per cent of the precinct results reporting, McCollister was leading Democrat Dan Lynch,

a three-time Douglas County Board Commissioner. McCollister had 66,630 votes, 55 per cent. Lynch had 54,351 votes, 45 per cent of the entire vote at that point.

With 82 per cent of the precincts reporting, Democrat Wayne Ziebarth edged over Mrs. Haven Smith with 60,113, 50 per cent of the total vote. Smith had 60,110 votes, 50 per cent of the entire vote. Voters in the 3rd District have not elected a Democrat to the House in 14 years.

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Photo by Gail Folda

Huskers to Sugar Bowl

Nebraska accepted an invitation Tuesday afternoon to play the University of Florida in the Sugar Bowl New Year's Eve.

It will mark the second appearance of the Cornhuskers in the New Orleans classic. In the 1967 Sugar Bowl, Nebraska bowed to Alabama, 34-7.

Florida enters this weekend's game with a 7-1 record. The seventh-ranked gators have lost only to Vanderbilt.

Nebraska is 6-2 with three regular season contests remaining.