

Zorinsky narrow victor in historic Senate race

By Larry Lutz

Democrat Edward Zorinsky, elected Tuesday as a new Nebraska U.S. senator, has turned a page in the state's history books. Zorinsky defeated Republican Rep. John Y. McCollister in the first Nebraska Senate race since 1954 that didn't involve an incumbent.

It also marks the end of a Republican regime holding that seat since 1934.

Zorinsky, current Omaha mayor, thwarted McCollister's bid to move up to the seat Roman Hruska vacated after McCollister had served six years in the House.

At 1:30 a.m., with Zorinsky leading 273,606 to 241,002, he said he was not ready to declare himself the winner. However, ABC and NBC TV networks declared him the victor with 90 per cent of the state's precincts reporting.

Zorinsky said he "didn't believe in declaring victory until his opponent had made a statement."

"These totals and projections are based on computers and I don't trust them," he said.

Doesn't trust computers

Regardless of computer projections, Zorinsky said he was pleased with the election.

"We feel great at this time about how the votes are coming in," he said. "There are some parts of the state we didn't emphasize in our campaign, and we realize those won't vote in our favor."

Zorinsky took an early lead in the vote tabulation, leading by nearly 30,000 votes in the early returns. At 10 p.m., he led 110,290 to 86,804 with about 40 per cent of the state's returns in.

By midnight, however, his lead had dwindled as returns from central Nebraska came in. At one point, Zorinsky's lead was cut to 20,000 before his margin began to grow again.

Before the election, Zorinsky had said he could win if he could carry both the eastern metropolitan areas of the state and the far west. He said he had "done better in the central part, one of McCollister's strongholds, during the campaign."

Zorinsky said he thought his balance throughout the state had been the important point in his win.

Popularity rise

The victory marked the end of Zorinsky's rise in popularity over McCollister that began after the May primary. At that time, Zorinsky was not

well known in the western part of the state and was coming off of a difficult primary campaign.

The turning point may have been the release of an *Omaha World-Herald* poll, released in early October, which showed Zorinsky leading by 10 percentage points, he said.

By the time the polls opened Tuesday morning, the outcome was expected to depend on each party's success in getting voters to the polls.

Zorinsky attributed his good showing in Omaha to an unusually large voter turnout, and said that was the key to victory. He said he appealed to a wide variety of voters because he could not be called either liberal or conservative.

Zorinsky campaigned on a program of fiscal responsibility and open government. He said his tenure as mayor, which began in 1973, showed voters he was fiscally conservative.

Both candidates said they were for the farmer and the small businessman; both said they opposed the Humphrey-Hawkins full-employment bill in Congress.

McCollister said, in a *Daily Nebraskan* interview, "the bill would be a blueprint for a mangled economy and would infringe on economic freedom."



Photo by Kevin Higley

Omaha Mayor Edward Zorinsky, shown during his campaign, has been elected U.S. senator for Nebraska.

Early returns indicate Carter is President-elect

Democrat Jimmy Carter has tallied enough electoral votes to win the presidency. But, as late as 3 a.m. today, some news sources still were saying the election was too close to call.

Shortly after 2 a.m., United Press International projected Carter the victor in Hawaii and Mississippi, giving him more than the 270 electoral votes needed for the victory.

ABC projected him the victor in Hawaii and the nation at 2:32 a.m.

Nebraska voted solidly for Ford. As late as 2 a.m. Wednesday, Carter was within three electoral votes of victory, with the outcome in 15 states still undetermined. As one commentator put it, it was Carter's ball, first and goal on the Ford one-yard line.

New York's 41 electoral votes put

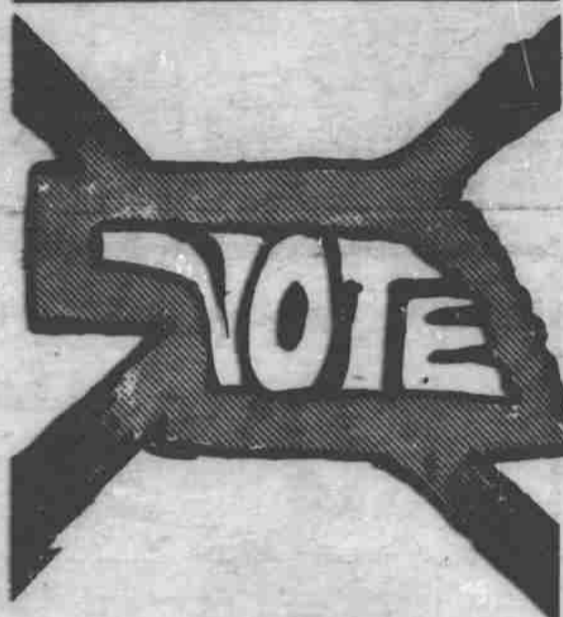
Carter within eight votes of the 270 needed for election.

However, because of the narrowness of the Carter margin and suspected tampering, the New York State Supreme Court at 1:45 a.m. ordered all state voting machines impounded pending a recount.

With 83 per cent of the national vote counted, Carter had a 51 to 48 per cent lead over Ford. The vote totals showed Carter with 34,305,000 while Ford had 32,262,500. Independent Eugene McCarthy had one per cent of the national vote, or about 500,000 votes.

Carter won throughout the South and also surprised Ford supporters by winning Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Missouri.

Ford won throughout the Midwest and also in his home state of Michigan with a 51 to 48 per cent vote margin over Carter.



Election results:
Campaign '76

Perspective: Totals tell the story

President
(with 83 per cent of the national vote recorded)
Jimmy Carter 34,304,997.
Gerald Ford 32,262,500.

President
(with 94 per cent of the Nebraska precincts reporting)
Jimmy Carter 212,153.
Gerald Ford 321,382.
Lester Maddox 3,028.
Roger MacBride 848.
Eugene McCarthy 84,396.

U.S. Senate
(with 94 per cent of the precincts reporting)
Edward Zorinsky 285,164.
John Y. McCollister 253,197.

First Congressional District
(with 93 per cent of the precincts reporting)
Pauline Anderson 47,623.
Charles Thone 131,313.

Second Congressional District
(with 99 per cent of the precincts reporting)
John Cavanaugh 102,202.
Lee Terry 83,651.

Third Congressional District
(with 91 per cent of the precincts reporting)
Virginia Smith (R) 127,520.

James Hansen (D) 43,823.

William Steen (APN) 4,211.

Nebraska Legislature
(with 83 per cent of the precincts reporting)

25th District
Jerome Warner 6,375.

Reginal Powers 2,915.

27th District
Steve Fowler 7,111.

Don Stenberg 5,574.

29th District
Shirley Marsh 8,151.

Ron Wylie 6,783.

NU Board of Regents

Third District
(with 80 per cent of the precincts reporting)

Kermit Wagner 25,043.

Merle Hansen 24,465.

Fourth District
(with 71 per cent of the precincts reporting)

Robert Prokop 30,735.

Willard Waldo 18,884.

Fifth District
(with 74 per cent of the precincts reporting)

Robert Koefoot 33,544.

Gladys Seaton 22,504.

Eighth District
(with 100 per cent of the precincts reporting)

James Moylan 30,206.

William Minier 17,481.

Amendments to the State Constitution
(with 78 per cent of the precincts reporting)

No. 1

For 159,503.

Against 238,046.

No. 2

For 219,327.

Against 153,243.

No. 3

For 175,032.

Against 213,323.

No. 4

For 130,634.

Against 268,253.

No. 5

For 175,061.

Against 226,290.

No. 6, part 1.

For 223,602.

Against 175,776.

No. 6, part 2

For 197,341.

Against 204,981.

No. 7

For 172,631.

Against 215,999.

No. 8

For 189,077.

Against 215,750.



Photo by Tad Kirk

Unsuccessful Senate candidate John Y. McCollister.