

Voters say no to lid bill, opponents credit publicity

By Shelley Smith

The Lid Bill, Amendment 302, considered to be one of the most controversial and most publicized amendments in the Nebraska election, was defeated Tuesday night.

As of 1 a.m. Wednesday morning the vote was 89,144 to 76,495.

The Lid Bill would have called for a 5 percent budget ceiling on every political sub-division that levies taxes. The city budget would be included.

Herb Schimek, a well-known opponent of the bill, representing the Nebraska State Education Association, said he was slightly surprised at the outcome of the election.

He said an earlier poll in June showed that 80 percent of the people polled were for the bill, 10 percent were against it, and 10 percent didn't even know what it was.

Hard work

He added that a lot of people worked "awful damn hard to show the public that the bill would not provide any kind of beneficial tax relief."

He added that by informing the public that the bill was not at all similar to Proposition 13, which was passed in California in June to reduce property taxes, helped defeat the bill.

"Once people found out that the bill would increase property taxes, they changed their minds," he said.

As election returns were broadcast, figures showed that the bill was running a close race in Omaha.

Schimek said at that point he was "losing a little weight."

Omaha conservative

He said the closeness of the vote in Omaha was because Omaha is "traditionally more conservative."

He said he knew if Omaha split 50-50 in the vote that the bill would be defeated because of the strong support against it in Lincoln.

Bob Sikyta, chairman of the City Council which had also publicly opposed the bill, said he knew the vote would be close.

He said the heavy campaigning against the bill about 3 weeks before the election had a great effect on Nebraska voters.

He said he felt Lincoln was campaigned harder and attributed this to the heavy defeat of the bill in Lancaster County.

Schimek added that the defeat of the bill would "stop some of the steam" generated by the bill's instigator Zeke Brauer.

Brauer was not available for comment.

Skills in proposal writing offered in UNL seminar

Developing and refining skills in writing proposals to secure federal, state and private funding is the goal of the Proposal Writers Institute Nov. 20-21 at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education in Lincoln.

The institute is sponsored by the UNL Division of Continuing Studies and the UNO College of Continuing studies. It is designed to help those who have never written a proposal as well as experienced

proposal writers.

A similar institute will be held Nov. 11-12 in Omaha.

The program will focus on basic principles of preparing and evaluating proposals requesting funds, locating funding sources, budgeting, legal obligations, contract and grant terminology, relationships between funding agencies and those receiving funds, and project management.

Amendment 300 defeated; voters reject school aid

Amendment 300 which would have provided increased financial aid from the state to all public schools in Nebraska was defeated Tuesday night.

The amendment was a result of a challenged bill passed by the Legislature in the summer of 1977, by tax revolter Zeke Brauer.

Brauer argued that the bill would mean higher spending and taxes, and would constitute an immediate increase in the state sales tax.

Proponents of the bill said it would shift the \$55 million cost of public education from property taxes to state and sales taxes within three years.

Brauer circulated a petition within

the state to oppose the bill and gained enough signatures to place the bill on the ballot.

Ross Rasmussen, of the State School Boards Association said earlier that he felt using property taxes to support schools is unfair to people who have a lot of land and property investments.

"Only two states use property taxes to support public schools more than Nebraska," he said.

Brauer said he felt the bill would increase property taxes and would eventually discriminate against rural schools.

The amendment was defeated by a margin 141,877 to 102,397.

Bottle bill capped by defeat, sinks by a 3 to 2 margin

Proposition 301, more popularly called the bottle bill was resoundingly defeated in last night's election by 157,230 to 110,030 as of 1:30 a.m.

By almost a 3 to 2 margin the voters downed an attempt to reduce littering by placing a five cent despoit on beer and pop containers.

Proponents of the bill cited the successful reduction of litter in Oregon and Washington States where similar bottle bills are in effect.

Opponents said the bill was an ineffect-

ive solution and would raise the price of beer and pop unnecessarily.

A supporter of the bill said the massive spending by bottling companies and other opponents caused the bills' defeat.

Pat Jerrison of Nebraskans for Returnable Containers said her group could not compete with the estimated \$350,000 put up by Nebraskans for Freedom of Choice. She said her group spent about \$9,000.

"I still feel that if there had been just a little more money we might have won," she said.

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