

Boosalis wins with unexpected ease



Daily Nebraskan photo
Mayor Helen Boosalis

Lincoln voters Tuesday returned Helen Boosalis to the mayor's office by a larger margin than expected as she defeated challenger Stan Matzke, garnering 53 percent of the vote.

Boosalis received 20,765 votes while Matzke, who was leading in pre-election polls and won the April primary, received 18,063 votes.

Thanking her supporters at the Knolls, Boosalis said it was a come-from-behind campaign but she "knew they could do it."

She attributed part of her success to campaign worker and County Commissioner Jan Gauger's plan to have each Boosalis volunteer call four people and ask them to vote for her, then calling them again on election day.

Boosalis said she heard "many got not four, but 15 or 20. 'I have never seen anything like the effort that the hundreds of people in this room put together,'" Boosalis said.

Momentum turned

She said Matzke was a "tough and worthy opponent" but she felt the "momentum had turned her way" during the last week of the campaign.

She said the Lincoln General Hospital lease issue "must have had some effect" on the outcome of the election and pointed to

the petition signed by 6,200 people in four days as evidence of the public's interest in the issue.

The integrity of the city's comprehensive plan which had been attacked by Matzke aided her campaign, Boosalis said.

Election stories were written by Rocky Strunk, L. Kent Wolgamott, Shelley Smith, Barb Richardson, Tom Prentiss, Val Swinton, Gordon Johnson and Frank Hassler

Matzke, thanking his supporters at the Villager Motel, also said the Lincoln General Hospital question was "one of the significant issues at the end".

His sentiments were echoed by Jim O'Hanlon, his campaign manager, and by Elmwood pollster Joe Williams.

"If the polls were right, we have to look at what happened in the last week," O'Hanlon said.

Mileage

"I think she was able to make a lot of mileage out of that (the hospital issue). The council race shows that."

Williams also based his analysis on the defeat of the three incumbent members in the city council race.

Matzke also said he may have been hurt by the debate between Boosalis and himself.

"I got beat so it must have hurt me somewhere," Matzke said.

He said he was "very disappointed" with the loss, but said he lost to a "very worthy individual".

"The mayor ran a good race. I'm losing

to a very worthy opponent. The citizens of Lincoln made their choice and we'll abide by it," Matzke said.

Matzke later went from the Villager to the Knolls to personally congratulate Boosalis on her victory.

He said his future plans were reporting to work at Southeast Community College at 8 a.m. this morning.

Red rose

Boosalis who carried a red rose throughout the evening also commented on her upcoming term.

"The city is older, areas are getting older and we must rehabilitate those areas," she said.

She said the next four years will be critical for the city in several areas such as keeping government costs down in spite of inflation, facing the energy crisis, rehabilitating the older neighborhoods in town and dealing with the rising cost of hospital care in Lincoln.

The city "must tighten its shoestrings," Boosalis said.

Commenting on the city council election, Boosalis said the people agreed with Matzke who said Lincoln wanted change but they wanted the change on the council.

Boosalis said the voters recognized "the bickering did not come from me."

She said she "couldn't be more pleased" with the outcome of the council elections.

"The people have spoken, they have voted for who they want to represent them," Boosalis said.

And, while telling supporters she was losing her voice, she added "maybe I won't need my voice with the new council that was elected."

Financing for chiller unit still undecided after debate

By Randy Essex and Rocky Strunk

Financing for an air conditioning unit for East Campus still is not resolved, and the university may still be faced with contract penalties, despite legislative discussion of the project Tuesday.

It "probably was not within the power" of the Board of Regents to enter into a \$463,000 contract for the chiller unit, Regent James Moylan said following the debate Tuesday.

Moylan said that because of the magnitude of the project and because funds were not guaranteed, the board probably should not have "purchased on credit."

Missed cancellation

The Board of Regents entered into the contract for the chiller in November, after they had listed it as their number one capital construction priority. The university had until Feb. 1 to cancel the contract without penalty.

Although the chiller itself costs \$463,000, the university requested \$1.1 million from the Legislature so the unit could be installed. An additional \$450,000 was requested for installation next year.

But the Appropriations Committee did not include the chiller in its capital construction bill, much to the disappointment of NU officials.

Amendment offered

Bellevue Sen. Frank Lewis offered an amendment Tuesday, that would have approved financing of the chiller unit, but the money would have been taken out of the NU operating budget, rather than the capital construction budget.

The Lewis amendment, which failed on a 21-18 vote, would have taken \$426,572 from \$1,848,122 recommended for central administration salaries. The amendment also would have taken \$250,000 from the budget recommendation for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and \$300,000 from the City Campus budget.

Lewis also proposed using \$123,428 cut from the NU budget earlier when Omaha Sen. Dave Newell was successful in elimi-

nating financing for the State University of Nebraska on a 25-12 vote.

Should buy it

"If that chiller is so important, then I think we should buy it, and those who can afford it should pay for it," Lewis argued.

He said if central administration is capable of making "such sloppy decisions" (as entering into the contract without an assurance of funds), then "we don't need that much central administration."

"If they have to tighten their belts, tough," Lewis said. "They have absolutely violated their authority, and they know that. They think you're stupid. They think you don't have any thought processes," Lewis told his colleagues.

"They think they can manipulate you, mold you; do anything they want to do with you, and come back with some flimsy excuse," the attack continued.

Earlier, Lewis had distributed a *Daily Nebraskan* story from Friday's issue. "You now have in your hands the regents' desire to pre-empt the Legislature," Lewis said.

Philosophical matter

"This is not a dollars and cents matter. It is a philosophical matter," deciding whether the Board of Regents or the Legislature has ultimate control over the university, Lewis said.

The State Supreme Court has ruled that the regents have that ultimate control, but the Legislature has all budgeting authority, and can exercise control through the budget process.

Scottsbluff Sen. William Nicol agreed with Lewis that the regents overstepped their authority, but did not support Lewis' proposed cuts.

Sucker

"I think we're being made into a sucker again," Nicol said. Even Appropriations Committee Chairman Jerome Warner agreed that the regents exercised "poor judgement," but Warner wanted to keep the committee proposals intact.

The Lewis amendment failed, leaving the only chance for financing of the chiller in the capital construction bill, which will be debated today.

Continued on Page 7



Photo by Bob Pearson

This little warrior takes time out for a drink at the Contemporary Native Americans in Arts and Sciences festival last weekend at the UNL Coliseum. For more pictures, see page 11.