

## Reagan victory is big in Nebraska

By Patti Gallagher

There was "never a doubt" that Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan would win big in Nebraska, according to the Republican state party leader, but the margin of Reagan's win nationally was surprising to all three of the party leaders.

Republican leader Dave Heineman said during preliminary results Tuesday night that he expected a 60 to 65 percent Reagan win in Nebraska. At about 8:45 p.m., Reagan had a 63 to 29 margin over President Carter in Nebraska.

Heineman said he "thought for some time that Reagan would take the national election," but said he was surprised at the electoral landslide.

Nebraska totals pegged Reagan at 66 percent of the popular vote, Carter at 26 percent, Anderson at 7 percent, and Libertarian candidate Ed Clark at about 1 percent.

Heineman said that there were three factors that contributed to Reagan's strong finish in the final days of the election.

The state of the economy was a major strike against Carter, Heineman said, and Reagan's gained momentum after the debate last Tuesday. Carter's inability to solve the hostage crisis also worked against the president.

Democratic state party leader DiAnna Schimek agreed with Heineman's reasons for the Reagan gain near the election end.

Schimek said that the similarity of her own and Heineman's reasons for Reagan's national showing were because of the joint appearance they had Tuesday night on a private television station in Kearney. The two leaders were featured on the pre-election program as election results came in.

Schimek said she was surprised at Reagan's large national win in popular votes. Although most national polls showed Reagan and Carter neck and neck through last week, Schimek said you "have to take polls with a grain of salt."

She added, however, that because the most recent polls those released over the weekend showed a slight dip for Carter, she started to brace herself for a Democratic loss.

In the Anderson camp Tuesday night, state party coordinator Joan Nigro Holt-haus said the Nebraska Anderson showing was "phenominal."

She said Anderson's 7 percent showing in Nebraska's "Reagan country," when national totals were only 6 percent, shows how hard the Anderson volunteers worked Nebraska.

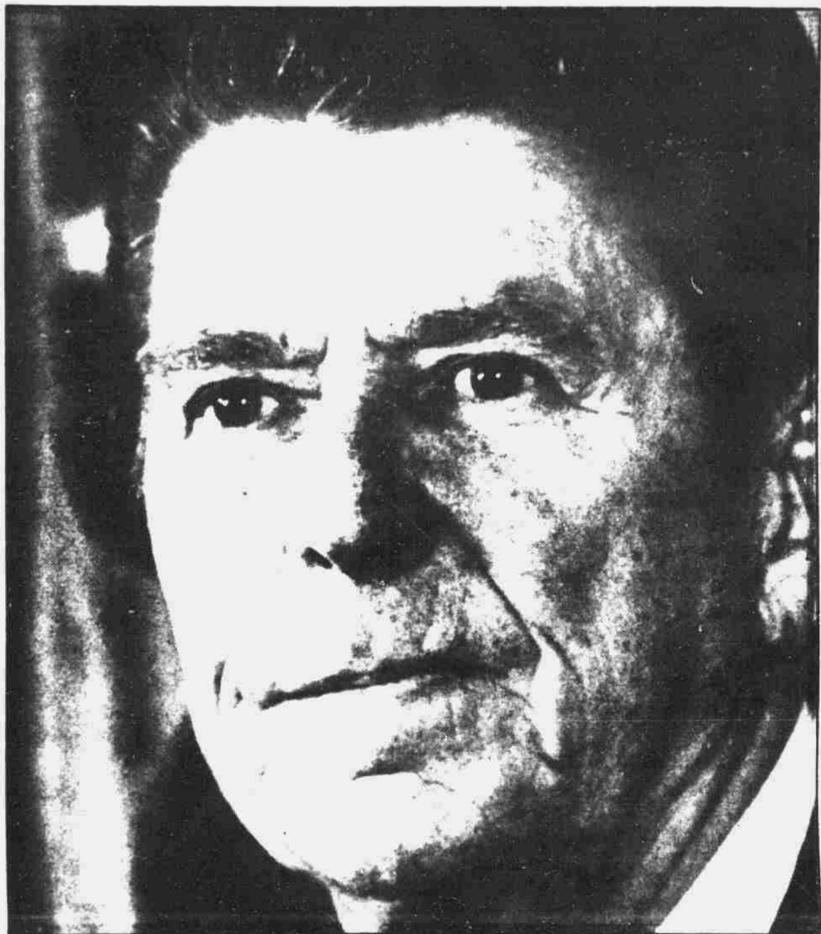
In Anderson's nationally televised concession speech, Anderson supporters chanted "84, 84." Schimek said the candidate will meet with leaders from around the country in the coming weeks to decide what direction his career and his followers should take next.

Schimek said that Anderson came across very positive in his concession speech, adding that "he was at his best, his most presidential."

"I wish he had been able to campaign with that much media coverage and with that much humor during his campaign," she said.

During his speech, Anderson was at ease, smiling and jokingly told his daughter that she should be at home studying nuclear proliferation.

Heineman said the Reagan win will be good for Nebraskans with an improved farm policy and economic policy.



Ronald Reagan

Photo by Mark Billingsley

## Fowler apparent winner in 27th District race

By Mary Kempkes

With 85 percent of the precincts reporting, Sen. Steve Fowler was the apparent winner in the 27th Legislative District race.

Fowler and his opponent Jerry Sellentin ran neck-and-neck all Tuesday evening. At 12:30 a.m., Fowler had 6,661 votes and Sellentin had 6,268. Fowler appeared late at his campaign party at the Lincoln Hilton Hotel, wanting to wait until the winner was certain to make his appearance.

Fowler's campaigners were enthusiastic with the 12:30 a.m. precinct reports. ASUN President Renee Wessels, a former Fowler aide, said, "I think it's fantastic. Steve Fowler has been a true leader in the Legislature for the university."

Wessels said she and other UNL student campaigners had been out in force since

5:30 a.m. Tuesday stuffing Fowler literature in doors of residences in the 27th District.

Sellentin, supported by the state Republican party, spent more money on the race than any legislative candidate in history. He had defeated two-term incumbent Fowler in the May primary.

In Nebraska legislative primaries, the top two candidates in the primary race face off in the general election. The seats are non-partisan, even though Fowler is strongly identified with local Democrats and Sellentin was supported by Republicans.

Earlier in the evening, Sellentin said he knew the race would be close when he began the campaign. With 72 percent of the vote counted, he would say only that the voters would have to make the decision.

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Doug Bereuter

Photo by Mark Billingsley

## Bereuter wins by landslide

By Steve Miller

The greatest contrast between the Doug Bereuter Rex Story post-election parties was not that of winners and losers but of money.

Story, who was losing to Bereuter by a wide margin, said he was not greatly disappointed by the loss.

"I might have had the thought in mind of winning," Story said. "But when you know you are up against a strong incumbent and that you are outspent about eight to one, you can't expect too much."

Story sat in the corner of a Clayton House hotel room calmly watching the results over a portable television. The room was small and cramped. People bumped into the bed as they shoved into the room.

No one was crying, no one seemed terribly depressed.

Story said he was pleased with the race, especially with the number of people who got involved. He said that he thought that there would be greater numbers to work for a Democratic ticket in the future.

"We all knew we were underdogs," Story said. "But we expect something like 30 percent and we did a good job for the money spent."

Story said he was disappointed with President Carter's loss to former California governor, Ronald Reagan.

"I thought there might be a chance that Carter would lose, but certainly not by this much," he said.

The mood at the Bereuter camp, although somewhat anticlimatic after Carter's concession, was a bit more enlightened.

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Steve Fowler

Photo by Mitch Hrdlicka