

# Decision '96

## Bereuter defeats Combs, wins 10th consecutive term

**U.S. House**  
1st District

85% of precincts reporting

Patrick Combs (D)	29%
54,149	
Doug Bereuter (R)	71%
131,733	

Bereuter heads back to House for a 10th term.



MATT MILLER/DN

UNL SENIOR DOUG Brauer, left, poses with U.S. Representative Doug Bereuter and senior Rebecca Hannagan while senior Chad Pekron takes their picture at Bereuter's victory party Tuesday night.

BY ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

Evelyn and Rupert Bereuter pieced together homemade signs, drove hundreds of miles around Nebraska to put them up and helped their son, Doug Bereuter, become the 1st District Representative in the U.S. House.

That was 18 years ago.

Tuesday night, they stood by quietly and smiled. Their days of making signs were over, but they realized it had paid off.

Doug Bereuter, 57, was elected to his 10th successive term in Congress Tuesday, with unofficial results giving him 69 percent of the vote against his Democratic challenger Patrick Combs, a Lincoln native.

Combs, radio talk-show host and promotions director for Warner Enterprises, also ran against Bereuter in the 1994 election.

Bereuter's parents, who are retired and live in the representative's hometown of Utica, said they were never involved in politics, but the job fit their son's altruistic nature.

"When he was younger, his mom asked him what he wanted to do when he grew up," Rupert Bereuter said. "He said, 'Well, I want to do something for people.' I guess this is it."

About 250 people rallied around the Bereuters Tuesday at the Villager Motor Inn, 52nd and O streets.

In his victory speech, Bereuter thanked the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College Republicans for all their volunteer work.

Brian Buescher, a UNL senior and member of the College Republicans, jockeyed for a better position at the television to watch election results and praised Bereuter's attempts to get to know UNL students.

Bereuter received his undergraduate degree in geography from UNL and later earned two master's degrees from Harvard University.

Bereuter outlined four goals for his next term in Congress Tuesday.

Deficit spending should be eliminated in six years, he said, to reach a balanced budget. If Congress is once again controlled by the Republicans, he said, this goal will come to fruition.

Bereuter's other goals were immigration reform, campaign-finance reform and making health care and health-care insurance more accessible.

## Combs suffers second defeat; says system flaws spoil race

BY STACEY RANGE  
Staff Reporter

Patrick Combs could not change history Tuesday in his attempt to become the first Democrat in 30 years to win Nebraska's 1st District seat of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Combs, 31, suffered his second-straight loss to nine-term incumbent Doug Bereuter.

"This election tells a lot about the future," Combs said in his concession speech less than an hour after the polls closed. "But it is certain that the future is not completely about this election."

"We still have a long way to go, and a fight to fight."

This year's fight was only slightly better than in 1994, when Combs lost by a 47,000-vote margin. The unofficial tally early this morning had Combs taking 29.1 percent of the vote to Bereuter's 70.9 percent.

At a joint Democratic reception at the Ramada Inn, 141 N. Ninth St., Combs told a crowd of about 250 people that he blamed an imperfect campaign system and lopsided financing for his loss.

"It was a clean race and a race on the issues, and it clearly identified what was wrong with the system," the defeated candidate said.

"It certainly identifies the unbelievable ad-

"I've been bit by that dog twice now, so we'll have to wait and see."

PATRICK COMBS  
Democratic challenger for  
U.S. House 1st District

vantages allowed to the incumbents. But simply because I was out-spent shouldn't deter me from taking my message out."

Many of Combs' supporters said they wanted him to run again in 1998, but hoped it would not be against Bereuter.

Brice Sullivan, a junior advertising major at UNL, said he hasn't given up on Combs but admitted Bereuter was a tough opponent.

"It's fine by me if he keeps running against Bereuter until Bereuter steps down," Sullivan said. "When he does step down, Combs has a shot."

Combs refused to announce a third bid Tuesday night, but he said he was not ruling it out.

"I've been bit by that dog twice now, so we'll have to wait and see."



MARNI SPECK/DN

PATRICK COMBS calls Doug Bereuter to congratulate the incumbent on winning his 10th term in office.

## O'Brien maintains regent seat

Incumbent says clean campaigning helped in victory over Sigerson

BY ERIN SCHULTE  
Senior Reporter

NU Regent Nancy O'Brien credited a clean campaign to sweep her into a second six-year term on the university governing board.

Unofficial results late Tuesday night showed O'Brien winning 60 percent of the vote against opponent Andrew Sigerson's 40 percent for the 2nd District seat on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents.



O'Brien

Sigerson, 25, is an Omaha attorney, as well as a former ASUN president and student regent.

O'Brien, 45, of Waterloo, said she pulled further ahead of Sigerson than she thought she would.

"When someone runs a negative campaign, there's the danger people might believe it," O'Brien said of Sigerson. "I guess that didn't happen."

O'Brien said clean campaigning helped her in the end.

"I'm really proud of the kind of campaign I ran,"

she said. "I'm looking forward to six more years, and we're going to get a lot more done at the university."

O'Brien said she would start her term by meeting with chancellors to figure out how to recruit and retain good students as well as keeping centers of academic quality on campuses.

"We're excited about what we can do," she said.

She spent the night celebrating with friends at Jack's, a Waterloo pizza hang-out, and later went to U.S. Senate-seat



Sigerson



Wilson

**NU Regents**

1st District	2nd District
85% of precincts reporting	
★ Charles Wilson	★ Nancy O'Brien
41,028	43,177
100%	61%
	★ Andrew Sigerson
	28,055
	39%

winner Chuck Hagel's victory party. Sigerson was not able to be reached Tuesday night for comment.

NU Regent Charles Wilson of Lincoln also was re-elected. Wilson, 57, ran unopposed for the 1st District seat.

Wilson, who spent election night at U.S. Rep. Doug Bereuter's campaign reception at Lincoln's Villager Motor Inn on 52nd and O streets, said he hoped the board could remain as cohesive as it had during his last term in office.

The board accomplished a lot of "positive things" during the last six years, Wilson said. More open meetings, a stronger core curriculum, gender equity and the strong university president model were important accomplishments on which the board could build, he said.

Wilson also said his fellow victor was a valuable member of the board. "(O'Brien) deserved to be re-elected."