

RHA informally votes on lid

■ **Senators hold mock vote to encourage student election involvement.**

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

Residence Hall Association senators informally voted on the proposed state spending lid Sunday night at their meeting.

The mock vote, 28-4 against the lid, was part of a presentation to encourage RHA senators to participate in the effort to educate students on the potential

effects of Initiative 413, the proposed spending lid.

Residence hall student assistants Natalie Hoover and John Conley encouraged senators to participate in "editorial drives," in which students would be encouraged to write letters to the editor of their hometown newspaper either supporting or opposing the lid.

Residence halls will hold meetings and organized display booths to educate students on the lid's potential effects.

Hoover passed out an information sheet to senators listing the possible repercussions of the lid such as increasing tuition 20 percent and eliminating majors or departments.

RHA

The residence halls and the Nebraska unions will have voter registration and absentee ballot booths today, Hoover said.

In other RHA business:

■ Jennifer Conklin, a Cather Residence Hall senator, was appointed chairwoman of the Campus Escort Committee.

■ Jadd Stevens, committee coordinator from Pound Residence Hall, was appointed Chairman of the Student Action Team Committee.

Lt. governor candidates campaign

BY TODD ANDERSON
Senior staff writer

Two lieutenant governor candidates spent more time Friday explaining why the job they want should exist at all, rather than why either should have it.

Democrat Pam Battalion and Republican Dave Maurstad spent most of a forum defining the role of the governor's right hand person during their first, and likely only, meeting before the election.

The Lincoln Council on Aging sponsored the forum at the Adult Recreation Center, 3140 Sumner Blvd.

Making sure state agencies are effective and efficient are among the lieutenant's responsibilities, in addition to presiding over the legislature, both candidates said.

Battalion said the more people in the executive branch, the more experiences can be combined when making decisions.

"Then we can translate that into actions that can be implemented by themselves or with the help of others," she said.

Maurstad said voters must examine his and his opponent's background and experience during the campaign because of the potential for the lieutenant governor to take over the governor's seat in case of emergency.

But, he said, the effectiveness of

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PAM BATALION

Democratic lieutenant governor candidate

the lieutenant governor depends on the strengths and weaknesses of the person in office.

Battalion said the executive leaders of the state had to develop a strategic planning process together.

"It's about the ability to see farther, to see the inevitable, so to speak ... and direct resources into solving problems," she said.

Battalion said she would like to see the link between education and the workplace improved, as well as a boosted rating for Nebraska in health services.

Though Maurstad said Nebraska already is No. 1 in the nation for quality of life and education, he said, a lower tax burden would be the best way to ensure growth in the future.

He said leaders must work toward filling jobs with qualified people, as well as lessening the tax burden on companies, to make Nebraska more attractive.

Election '98

Battalion said the lieutenant governor's job is to get people talking about how to solve problems.

"That which gets talked about, gets solved," she said.

Battalion and Maurstad touched on their relationships with their running mates.

Battalion said she had worked a long time with gubernatorial candidate Bill Hoppner.

When the two decided to run together, they made separate lists of their goals and priorities for Nebraska, she said.

They compared notes to find that their lists matched up.

Maurstad said he would be ready to work closely with Republican gubernatorial candidate Mike Johanns in achieving Johanns' vision of less government and lower taxes.

New state Supreme Court chief justice takes bench

BY JESSICA FARGEN
Staff writer

The swearing in of the chief justice of the Nebraska Supreme Court on Friday marked a rare occurrence in Nebraska's judicial history - all seven justices have been appointed by the same governor.

John Hendry was sworn in Friday in the Capitol rotunda in front of about 300 people, including Gov. Ben Nelson and former Chief Justice C. Thomas White, who retired last week.

But Robert Sittig, UNL political science professor, said although this is the first time a governor has appointed all the supreme court justices, it is not a political phenomenon.

Sittig said governors have been able to appoint justices only since the 1970s.

Since that time, most governors have not remained in office for two terms, as Nelson has. "I think it is just a coincidence of history," he said. "The opportunity was there."

Hendry was named to replace Chief Justice White, who retired Wednesday after serving more than 20 years on the court.

Hendry applauded White and the high quality of the existing state justices, calling them "hardworking, conscientious and outstanding."

Hendry said communication with groups such as the state Bar

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JOHN HENDRY

state Supreme Court chief justice

Association, the Legislature and the governor would be important.

"As chief justice I look forward to an era of cooperation and dialogue," Hendry said.

Hendry, 49, had served as Lancaster County Judge since 1995. Prior to that he practiced personal injury law for 21 years.

During that time, Hendry worked with Lincoln attorney Jim Bruckner, who called Hendry the "best product liability lawyer in Nebraska."

Now Hendry has a different role, Bruckner said at the ceremony.

"He is a man about to assume the most awesome responsibility of our legal system in Nebraska," Bruckner said.

Hendry is a native of Omaha and graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1970 and from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1974.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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