

NU with a vengeance

Nebraska made up for two losses to Colorado last year with a three-game sweep of the Buffaloes on Wednesday night. PAGE 7

The movement movement

The Omaha Modern Dance Collective, a group devoted to increasing Nebraska's artistic visibility, will hold its annual concert this weekend. PAGE 9

November 5, 1998

DARK DAYS

Mostly cloudy, high 40. Cloudy tonight, low 32.

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Western counties gave Johanns edge

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

Strong showings in Omaha and throughout western Nebraska propelled Mike Johanns to victory in the governor's race Tuesday.

Johanns, the Republican, won in 70 counties, while his opponent, Democrat Bill Hoppner, captured the remaining 23.

Johanns won in Douglas County with 68,601 votes to Hoppner's 60,066. In Sarpy County, another populous county in the Omaha metropolitan area, Johanns earned 17,368 votes, while Hoppner received 11,813.

Johanns claimed victory in every county west of a line that runs from Keya Paha County in the north to Harlan County in the south and divides the state just east of center.

Hoppner was victorious in

Election '98

Lancaster County despite the fact that Johanns has been mayor of the county seat, Lincoln, since 1991. It wasn't enough, however, to overcome Johanns' strong support in the majority of the state.

Overall, Johanns won 55 percent of the vote to Hoppner's 45 percent, based on Wednesday's unofficial final results.

John Hibbing, a political science professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the election results, especially the strong Republican showing in the third congressional district in the west, were typical of Nebraska electoral results.

Hibbing said Hoppner's call for lower property taxes and opposition to the market-based agricultural reforms of the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act apparently failed to resonate with voters in

west-central and western Nebraska.

"I thought Hoppner might have been able to make more inroads," he said. "I thought maybe property tax concerns would dovetail with Hoppner's opposition to Freedom to Farm, but it doesn't look that way."

Western Nebraska traditionally votes Republican, and Hoppner's campaign was unable to break this tendency, Hibbing said.

Johanns won some decisive victories in western Nebraska counties, winning by 2-to-1 margins in Scottsbluff, Cherry and Keith counties.

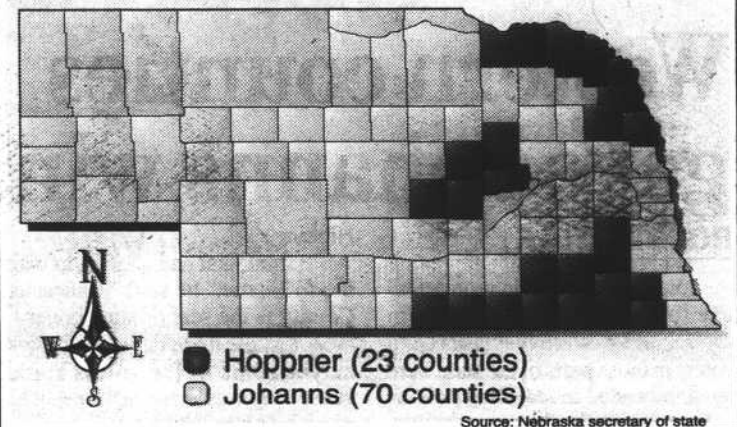
Chris Peterson, Johanns' press secretary, said western Nebraskans related to Johanns' conservative message.

"I think western Nebraskans really want less government," he said. "When it comes to day-to-day life, they just want government out of their way."

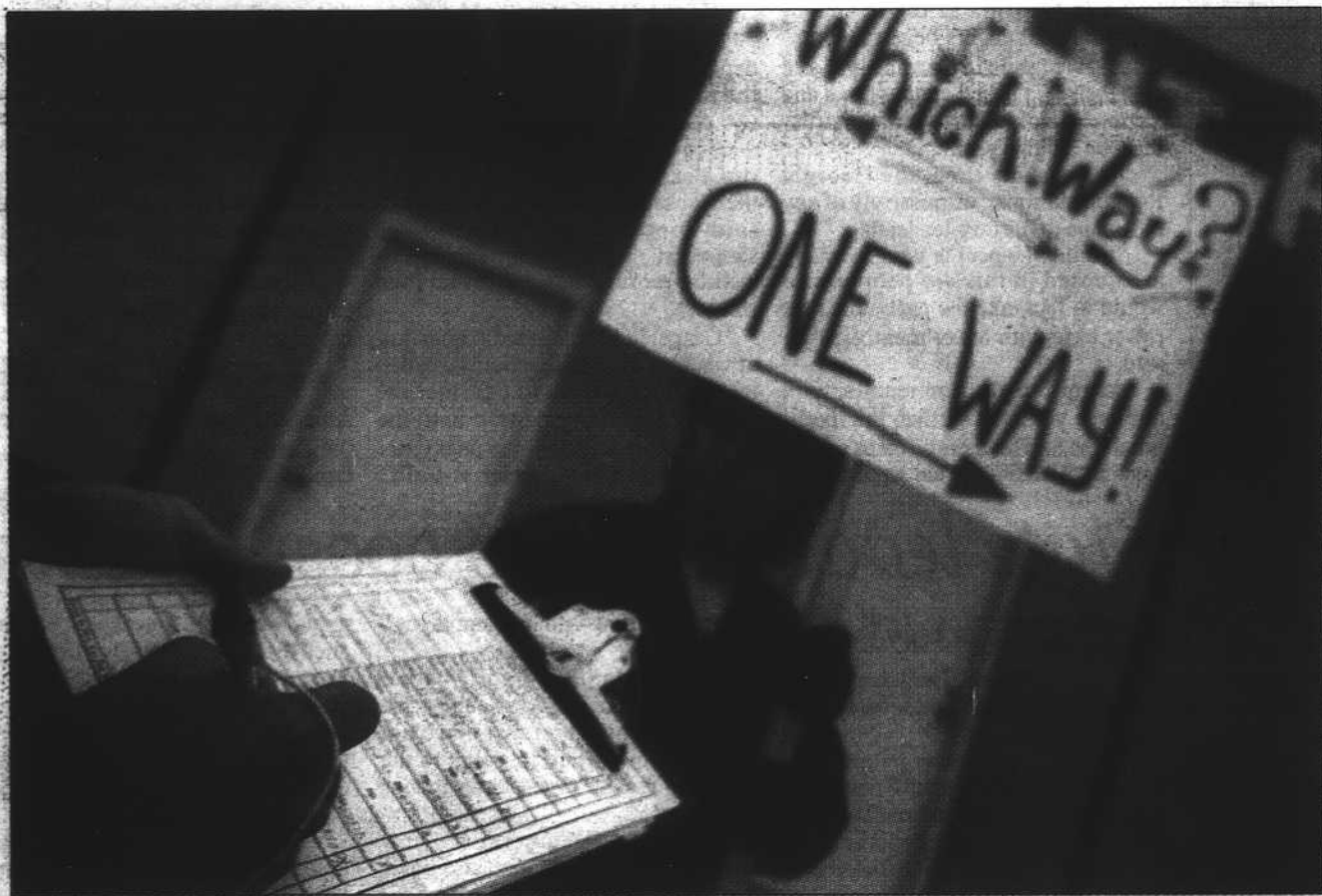
Please see **ROUNDUP** on 2

Turf war

Final unofficial ballot counts show Republican Mike Johanns won in three times as many counties as his opponent, Democrat Bill Hoppner, in Tuesday's gubernatorial race. In Lancaster County, Hoppner won by 5,418 votes, beating Johanns in the city where he is mayor.



JON FRANK/DN



SCOTT McCLURG/DN

TAMMY KEAR HOLDS a protest sign near 10th and P streets as a one-way street supporter signs a petition that will be brought to the Lincoln City Council. About 10 protesters endured cold temperatures Wednesday afternoon for a second rally to garner support to return P Street to one-way.

Protesters take to P Street again

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

Despite cloudy skies and temperatures in the upper 30s, supporters of a one-way P Street stood along the street in another protest Wednesday.

Demonstrators held signs that read "Our City, Our Street" and "Which way? One-way!" Other signs encouraged drivers to honk for the change.

About 10 protesters stood on P Street between 10th and 11th streets for an hour,

marking the second time in a month people have shown their discontent with the two-way street.

Their goal was to collect signatures and gain public support to return the street to one-way traffic. Before Wednesday's demonstration, about 3,500 signatures had been collected.

They hope to present more than 4,000 to the City Council at Monday's public hearing on the P Street matter.

Jim Wrenholt is the informal leader of the P Street petition drive, which includes about 100 people who are dedicated to

making P Street a one-way street again.

Wrenholt, a Lincoln businessman, said the Monday hearing at 1:30 p.m. is important because it is the first public hearing on the P Street situation.

"It is a public hearing, so anyone can speak," he said. "People need to be aware that this provides an opportunity for them to have a say on the situation."

After the hearing, the City Council will vote on the possibility of changing P Street back to a one-way street.

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Election '98

State leaders look for ways to boost turnout

BY TODD ANDERSON
Senior staff writer

Following Nebraska's lowest voter turnout for a general election in 20 years, state leaders are searching for reasons as well as solutions to a national and local trend.

Nebraska Secretary of State Scott Moore said final unofficial reports show 536,672 — 50.8 percent of registered voters — made their way to the polls Tuesday.

The 1998 election year saw a record number of registered voters for Nebraska, at more than 1 million.

That high number, Moore said, is a result of experimenting with Motor Voter legislation, which is designed to make registration easier by allowing Nebraskans to sign up while they apply for a driver's license.

For Nebraska, which traditionally has a higher voter turnout rate than the

nation as a whole, Moore said that percentage is historically low because the number of registered voters is so great.

But the percentage and, more importantly, the total number of voters, were the lowest since 1978, he said.

Chuck Sigerson, Nebraska Republican Party chairman, said voters have been turned off by negative campaigning in the past.

But, he said, the voters who complained of mud-slinging campaigns have not made the decision to pay attention to recent clean-election campaigns.

"These are voices from the past who haven't taken notice

“
In this society that's changed so much, we need to look at different ways to get people to vote.”

SCOTT MOORE
Nebraska secretary of state

Please see **TURNOUT** on 2