



VOICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ANDY SCHUERMAN reacts to the news of next week's runoff election during his party's celebration at BW-3. Wednesday's ASUN election was too close to call, so a runoff election will be held next Wednesday to determine a winner.

DANIEL LUEDERT/DN

Election too close to call

RUNOFF from page 1

Schreier and Jon England obtained 1,163. For second vice president, Focus candidate Trisha Meuret secured 1,212 votes, while Vernon Miller received 1,034 for the Voice party.

The last runoff election between two parties' candidates for president and first vice president occurred in 1990, after that year's Vision party garnered 34 more votes in the general election than the Today party's 1,405 votes.

That year, a third party called Stand got 646 votes — about 23 percent of the total.

With the third party gone for the runoff, Vision party candidates won by five votes March 21, 1990.

This year, however, there was no official third party.

The runoff election next week will be similar to the vote conducted Wednesday, except no write-in candidates will be allowed. Electoral Commission President Ryan Fuchs said.

Voter turnout was slightly lower this year than last. Out of a possible 20,511 eligible student voters, 13.2 percent of them cast votes, compared to 13.5 percent last year.

Marlene Beyke, ASUN director of develop-

Voter turnout	
1998	13.5 percent
1997	9.8 percent
1996	8.4 percent (18-year low)
1995	12.7 percent
1990	16.3 percent (all-time high in the 1990s)
1999	13.2 percent of 20,511 eligible voters

JON FRANK/DN

ment, said the runoff may affect voter turnout next week.

"Typically, it's been harder to get students to come out a second time," Beyke said.

She said the outcome is now up to the candidates.

"It's going to be a challenge for them to rally their supporters again," she said.

Contrary to the ballot process Wednesday, the vote next week will be counted by hand.

On Wednesday, the ballots were collected and run through a counting machine.

Fuchs said a close vote requires a hand count.

"With a vote this close, students obviously have a vested interest," Fuchs said. "It will be a vote by hand on Wednesday. This is a big deal."

Beyke said a runoff had not been expected. "There weren't any signs that I saw," she said. "I knew it'd be a close race."

Senate candidate and Focus representative Kevin Naujokaitis said the run-off will allow executive candidates to focus solely on their campaigns.

"There won't be senate candidates now," he said. "So, we'll be able to concentrate on executive positions."

With no specific plans Wednesday night on what events will take place this week, Schuerman said the Voice party would continue to use the same strategies to gain votes it has for the past six weeks.

Work parties will begin again tomorrow, he said.

Polls will be open for Wednesday's runoff election from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. with polling sites in the Nebraska Union, the Nebraska East Union, the Campus Recreation Center, Neihardt Residence Hall gold parlor, Harper Food Service building and the Sandoz Residence Hall lounge.

All amendments on ballot fail

BY BRIAN CARLSON
Staff writer

All three proposed constitutional amendments on the ASUN ballot went down to defeat in Wednesday's elections.

To have been ratified, the amendments would have had to garner "yes" votes from two-thirds of the students who voted.

Although each amendment received more "yes" than "no" votes, none were approved by two-thirds of the 2,709 students who voted, according to unofficial results. Of the students who voted, about 500 chose not to vote on the amendments.

One amendment would have increased the number of elected senators from 35 to 40 and changed the districts from which senators were elected.

While academic units — colleges and divisions — would have retained their 25 seats, the amendment would have allotted 10 seats for living units such as residence halls, greek houses and off-cam-

pus living units. It also would have added five at-large seats elected by the entire student body.

With 40 percent of all who voted casting votes in favor of the amendment, it failed.

Another amendment would have required a senator representing the Division of Continuing Studies to be enrolled in 12 credit hours, consistent with the requirements for senators from all other academic units. Senate candidates from the Division of Continuing Studies currently must be enrolled in three credit hours.

Although twice as many students voted "yes" as "no," the amendment still gained just 55 percent of the total vote.

The senate seat for the Division of Continuing Studies has been vacant for more than six years.

The final amendment would have stripped the ASUN first vice president of the authority to remove senators who had missed three or more meetings. The amendment would have allowed the first vice president only to recommend that a senator be removed after three absences.

This amendment failed with 41 percent of all voters supporting it.

The constitutional amendments provided a clear distinction between presidential candidates Paul Schreier of Focus and Andy Schuerman of Voice, who will face each other in a run-off election next week after neither gained a majority in Wednesday's election.

Schreier, whose party opposed the amendments, said the vote was a victory for students and an approval of the current system.

"We won the amendments," he said. "This is what we wanted. I believe it is better for the students this way."

Schuerman, whose party supported the amendments, said that with more time and resources, amendment supporters could have convinced students the amendments were in their best interests.

"I think it's mostly a case of under-education and lack of promotion," he said. "We know it's so much easier to vote no and stay with the status quo, and it's twice as difficult to educate. This just demonstrates the need for more education."

Staff writers Ieva Augstums and Kim Sweet contributed to this report.

And the winners are ...

Unofficial votes for senate candidates. Percentages based on votes cast, not counting write-in candidates. Only winners listed.

Total Senate Seats

Focus: 15
Voice: 8
Independent: 2

College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources

Matt Rasmussen (Focus) 254 (37.3 percent)
Kate Hutchens (Voice) 185 (27.2 percent)

College of Architecture

Vanessa Vap (Focus) 25 (51 percent)

College of Arts and Sciences

Beth Augustine (Voice) 301 (10.7 percent)
Urrvano Gamez Jr. (Focus) 268 (9.5 percent)
Heath Mello (Voice) 242 (8.6 percent)
Natalie Hoover (Voice) 238 (8.5 percent)
Jason Mashek (Focus) 227 (8.1 percent)
Mandi Guernsey (Focus) 201 (7.1 percent)

College of Business Administration

Jill Braband (Voice) 197 (14.4 percent)
Amy Rol (Independent) 186 (13.6 percent)
Ryan Comes (Focus) 182 (13.3 percent)
Adam Thompson (Voice) 150 (11 percent)

Continuing Studies

No one filed. write-ins to determine winner

Dentistry

No one filed. write-ins to determine winner

College of Engineering and Technology

Kevin Naujokaitis (Focus) 113 (23.8 percent)
Cody Northrop (Focus) 111 (23.4 percent)

College of Fine and Performing Arts

Erin Reitz (Independent) 28 (38.9 percent)

College of General Studies

Ronnie Patton (Voice) 103
Write-ins to determine other three positions

College of Graduate Studies

Todd A. Erickson (Voice) 45
Write-ins to determine other five positions

College of Human Resources and Family Sciences

Amy Ellis (Focus) 56 (65.1 percent)

College of Journalism and Mass Communications

Beth Lee (Focus) 134 (73.6 percent)

College of Law

Jared B. Jennings (Focus) 9

College of Nursing

Christy Hamilton (Focus) 10 (71.4 percent)

College of Public Affairs and Community Service

Cory "Goose" Osfermeyer (Focus) 12 (54.5 percent)

Teachers College

Jessica Steyer (Focus) 82 (21.7 percent)
John Grebe (Focus) 81 (21.4 percent)

Committee for Fees Allocation

Off Campus

No one filed, winners to be determined by write-in

Greek Living Unit

Scott Peterson (Independent) 1,166 (70.2 percent)

Residence Hall

Jadd M. Stevens (Independent) 1,563
Write-in to determine other position

Compiled by staff writer Shane Anthony