

1st District

Bereuter touts ag-export work

BY GEORGE GREEN

Twenty-two years of serving in the House of Representatives has helped Republican incumbent Doug Bereuter understand the needs of the 1st District.

And on Election Day, Bereuter said he hopes Nebraskans will vote for him again, bringing seniority and experience back to Congress.

Despite claims by his opponent Democrat Alan Jacobsen that he does nothing for Nebraska's agricultural needs, Bereuter said "no one in the 1st District" is more involved in agricultural policy than himself.

Bereuter has worked on the Committee of International Relations since 1983. He has been the vice chairman since 1995. If elected, Bereuter has the chance to become chairman if the GOP keeps control of the Congress this election.

He said he has worked to increase foreign trade in agricultural products during his time on the committee.

"I have been the most active Congressman in promoting exports," he said.

Bereuter said he also has worked hard to increase the use of ethanol, which would help Nebraska farmers

because it is made from corn.

Despite his hard work in agriculture, Bereuter said he is concerned with more than agricultural programs and problems.

Nebraskans care about more than just their crops, even though Jacobsen has focused most of his energy on agricultural issues, he said.

Jacobsen has criticized Bereuter for not taking a seat on the Agricultural Committee, where Jacobsen said he could best help Nebraska farmers.

Bereuter said it is important to have Nebraskans on that committee, but it also is important to have a voice from Nebraska in other influential committees.

Bereuter said he knows that his constituents have several needs because he stays in "close contact" with his district.

Bereuter said he holds about 50 town hall meetings each year where he talks with constituents about their needs and problems.

Through these meetings, Bereuter said he has learned a lot about his district and how to better serve it.

Bereuter said one of the best ways he serves his district is through finding

federal money to pay for local development projects.

He highlighted the plan to build a new \$3.5 million bridge from the Haymarket District in Lincoln to the new baseball stadium that will house NU's baseball team and the Salt Dogs, the Northern League professional team.

The bridge is an example of a project paid for by federal money that he helped secure.

Bereuter learned about development projects at Harvard University where he earned a master's degree in city planning and another in public administration.

Before attending Harvard, Bereuter earned a bachelor's degree in political science and geography from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Knowledge about planning and many years of experience being a Congressman have helped Bereuter serve his constituents, he said.

But, more importantly, he said he represents Nebraskans well because he can effectively move their opinions and strengths to the country's capital.

"I bring the values and common sense of Nebraska to Congress," he said.

Jacobsen: Bereuter out of touch

BY GEORGE GREEN

Alan Jacobsen says the next representative from the 1st Congressional District will have a hand in making or breaking Nebraska agriculture.

For this reason, Jacobsen, the Democratic nominee for the 1st District, said it is time to oust Doug Bereuter, a 22-year veteran Congressman because he has not helped Nebraska farmers, he said.

"Farmers are not making any money, and the government is not helping," he said.

If elected, Jacobsen said he will take a seat on the House Agriculture Committee, a move Bereuter chose not to make.

By passing over a seat on the committee, Bereuter chose his own needs over the needs of Nebraska farmers, Jacobsen said.

Once on the committee, he said he will begin to help rewrite the 1996 Freedom to Farm Act, which he said hurt farmers.

It is time for the "grain cartel" - a small group of people created by the bill that sets crop prices - to stop filling its pockets while farmers empty their bank accounts just to survive, he said.

"Farmers are not making any money, and the government is not helping."

Alan Jacobsen

1st Congressional District candidate

Jacobsen said he will also try to help farmers by pushing for increased ethanol use.

Increased ethanol use would benefit Nebraska farmers because it is made from corn, he said.

Jacobsen cites the struggles of Nebraska farmers as one of the main reasons he chose to run against such a formidable opponent.

No challenger has finished within 46,000 votes of Bereuter in the last 10 elections.

Jacobsen doesn't mind the heavy odds against him. Bereuter isn't invincible, he said.

But Jacobsen, a small-business owner who raises bison on an acreage near Denton, has lagged behind Bereuter in the polls.

Still, Jacobsen maintains that hard work will bring him victory. He said he has outworked Bereuter during the campaign, stopping in countless communities to talk to residents.

Jacobsen said his

work ethic will not change when he gets into office.

In the past, Jacobsen has worked hard to gain election to other offices.

He ran unsuccessfully for the state Legislature in 1990 and for the Republican nomination for governor in 1994.

In 1997, Jacobsen switched parties because of a distaste for the negative campaigning that he said the GOP advocated.

Before party switches and bids for office, Jacobsen a father of three, graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Jacobsen started A-J Roofing and Waterproofing Company with his wife, Lori, a few years after graduation.

He said his experiences with the business have taught him about economics and leadership, which he said was a key point in his battle against Bereuter.

"The primary issue is leadership, not seniority," he said.

2nd District

Terry vows eye on spending

BY GEORGE GREEN

If Omahans in the 2nd District send Republican Lee Terry back to Washington, he said he will continue to be a fiscally conservative representative.

Elected in 1998 to his first term in the House of Representatives, Terry said the most important theme in his campaign is "holding the line on spending."

The vitality of the economy

Family, career inspire Kiel

BY GEORGE GREEN

Twenty years of teaching experience has shown Democrat Shelly Kiel that a good education is priceless.

For this reason, Kiel said, she will make educational reforms a main priority if the 2nd District sends her to Congress as its representative.

The federal government, she said, needs to increase the amount of money it gives stu-

Osborne campaigns toward easy victory

BY BRIAN CARLSON

Three years after retiring from his football coaching career, Tom Osborne is poised to be the 3rd District's next congressman.

Drawing on the popularity and respect he built during 25 seasons at Nebraska, Osborne leads his Democratic opponent Rollie Reynolds by more than 70 points, according to a

copyrighted Omaha World-Herald poll.

Osborne, who compiled a 255-49-3 record at Nebraska and won three national championships, acknowledged his football success has contributed to his success at the polls.

"I feel I've been given a little bit of a plat-

Reynolds bemoans football-crazed state

BY BRIAN CARLSON

Rollie Reynolds says the most important issue in the 3rd District should be agriculture, not football.

But in this football-crazed state, how do you defeat a Hall of Fame former Nebraska football coach who won three national titles?

It's a question Reynolds, the Democrat, hasn't been

able to answer. According to an Omaha World-Herald poll, he trails Tom Osborne by an 81-7 percentage-point margin.

Reynolds knows he has no chance to defeat Osborne, the legendary former Nebraska football coach. He thinks the district is making a dan-

Please see REYNOLDS on 4

Please see TERRY on 3

Please see KIEL on 3

Please see OSBORNE on 4