

Bereuter returns to House, defends agriculture record

The congressman says Nebraskans can expect changes in health care and foreign policy.

BY GEORGE GREEN

Doug Bereuter strolled to the podium Tuesday night to accept his 1st Congressional District victory as the Husker's tunnel-walk song blared in the background.

Just as the Huskers frequently dominate their opponents, Bereuter, a 22-year incumbent, handed his opponent, Alan Jacobsen, a stinging defeat.

With 59 percent of the precincts reporting at midnight, Bereuter won 65 percent of the vote to Jacobsen's 33 percent.

Bereuter, though, was not prepared to compare his victory to the Cornhusker's domination.

"I'm not quite as awesome," he said.

But he was ready to celebrate his strong win.

Bereuter said he was thankful and appreciative for all of the help he received in the campaign.

He also said he was excited to work with Republicans Lee Terry and Tom Osborne.

If George W. Bush is elected president, Bereuter said Bush will have three supporters in the House from Nebraska.

Bereuter was not nearly as thrilled with Bush's Democratic opponent, Al Gore.

In his 22 years of campaigning, Bereuter said he has never competed in a campaign where his political record was dragged through such political mud.

Jacobsen has been particularly critical of Bereuter's agricultural policies.

Specifically, Jacobsen has said Bereuter ignored the needs of Nebraska farmers when he chose a seat on the Committee on International Relations instead of picking a seat on the Agriculture Committee.

Bereuter adamantly defended his agricultural record, but admitted that Jacobsen's attacks got under his skin.

"There has been a slight degree of irritation in my voice in these last days," he said.

Chuck Sigerson, chairman of the Nebraska Republican Party, said he disagreed with Jacobsen's criticism about Bereuter's choice to work on the foreign-policy committee.

If the GOP holds onto its edge in Congress, Sigerson said Bereuter would be next in line to become chairman of the committee.

"The appointment will be very important for Nebraska farmers and Nebraska's economy," he said.

Bereuter said if he gets the appointment, Nebraskans can expect him to use it to increase agricultural exports, which will help Nebraska farmers.

He also noted that if he receives the appointment he

"The appointment will be very important for Nebraska's farmers and Nebraska economy."

Chuck Sigerson

Nebraska Republican Party chairman

will be the first Nebraskan to lead a major committee in many years.

Along with increases in farm exports, Bereuter said, Nebraskans can expect changes in the role U.S. forces play in peace keeping missions and changes in health-care premiums.

But for most of the evening, the mood at the Cornhusker Hotel, where Bereuter and Stenberg played host to campaign parties, was light without many references to specific policies.

Lt. Gov. Dave Maurstad joined the optimistic din by praising Bereuter's political policies. The people of Nebraska showed tonight they agree with Bereuter's positions, he said.

Maurstad also said Bereuter's win illustrates that Nebraskans believe he has done a good job for the state thus far.

"Nebraskans recognize that he has served his state well," Maurstad said.

Five elected to Legislature

BY MARGARET BEHM

The votes have been tallied and five senators have been elected from the Lincoln area for the Nebraska Unicameral.

In District 27, DiAnna Schimek said she was surprised by a gesture made by her opponent after his defeat.

"Paul Edwards came over to congratulate me," she said. "I thought it was a classy thing to do. I've never had an opponent do that before."

Paul Edwards said he wanted to speak with her after the election results poured in.

"I wanted to go over there and thank Sen. Schimek for her participation in the race and congratulate her," he said.

Edwards said he is unsure whether he will consider running for an election again.

In District 29, Mike Foley said that despite great opposition, he was still able to secure

victory against James Hewitt.

"We just went out there and worked our hearts out," he said. "We fortified all of our work with prayer."

Hewitt had advantages such as endorsements from the Lincoln Journal Star and from the Lincoln and Nebraska branches of the Chamber of Commerce.

James Hewitt responded by saying that he didn't have enough endorsements.

Despite the charge of negative campaigning, Hewitt said, his campaign was never directed against Foley.

"I think it was absolutely positive," he said. "We never mentioned his name in any radio ads or anywhere."

Even though the campaign trail took a negative turn, he tried to avoid it, Foley said.

"There was a lot of negative telephone work," Foley said. "It was very disheartening seeing

"There was a lot of negative telephone work. It was very disheartening seeing the campaign move in that direction. But we maintained a positive approach."

Mike Foley

newly elected senator

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These candidates ran unopposed: In District 1, Carol Hudkins won without having an opponent, along with Ron Raikes in District 25, and District 23 candidate Curt Bromm.

EMS, tax amendments fail

Lincolntes shoot down proposed emergency medical board, tax-levy lid override.

BY GWEN TIETGEN

A mood blew threw the frigid Lincoln air Tuesday night that was filled with anxious voters and antsy supporters.

It was a night of disappointments and victories, but most of all relief and realization.

A sigh of relief breathed from supporters who blew away or barely brushed off the competition.

And a leap toward realization from supporters who went to bed with "what if" thoughts.

One big sigh of relief was breathed by Lincoln firefighters as the proposed charter amendment failed by a slim margin.

The charter amendment failed 51.4 percent to 48.6 percent, the Lancaster County Electoral Commission Web site reported.

The proposed charter amendment would have created an emergency medical authority, consisting of a five-member board, to oversee emergency services.

The amendment was put on the ballot after the Lincoln City Council voted 4-3 to turn over the city's 911 services to the Lincoln Fire Department.

Proponents of the Supporters of Ambulance Value and Excellence said the process the mayor used to select the fire department as the next provider was flawed.

"The mayor was going to do anything he could to make sure the firefighters got the ambulance contract," Phil Young, campaign coordinator for S.A.V.E., said.

Dave Engler, the vice-president of Lincoln's firefighters association, said he expected it to be close, but not this close.

"The amendment was written to confuse people," Engler said.

"We now have to start developing a budget based on a one-dollar levy, and there is no way we will be able to provide the same number of services."

Dennis Van Horn

administrative assistant for instruction at Lincoln Public Schools

"I know several people who thought they were supporting us but voted for the amendment because they misunderstood what it was saying."

Engler said the emergency medical services have been dysfunctional for years, and the fire department can change that.

"If you put the EMS under one organization and under one set of rules, you can start to create a system of teamwork, and that's what Lincoln needs."

The city's 911 ambulance service has been contracted to private provider Rural/Metro Ambulance for several years, and this year, its contract expires.

Firefighters say an emergency medical authority to oversee emergency services already exists through Emergency Medical Services Inc.

The resolution, passed by the City Council in September, renewed EMS Inc.'s contract for four more years.

Fire Chief Mike Spadt said independent medical oversight was never an issue.

"We came out early in support of independent medical oversight, we came before the city council and testified to this, and physicians were in support of it," Spadt said.

If the charter amendment had passed, the firefighters' Jan. 1 takeover would have been delayed two years, and Rural/Metro's contract would have been extended two years.

With the defeat of the charter amendment, Young said he hopes the fire department will follow through on its promises, and make the ambulance serv-

ice "better, faster and cheaper," the cliché the fire department and the mayor have used throughout the campaign.

One big disappointment of the night came from Lincoln Public Schools when the amendment to override the tax-levy lid and grant a spending override failed.

Under current law, taxpayers are charged \$1.10 per \$100 of property valuation. In 2001-02, Nebraska statutes will lower the property tax levy to \$1.00.

Lincoln Public Schools contested that the \$1 property tax levy would not be enough to balance the district's budget.

With the amendment, a three-year maximum levy would have been imposed of up to \$1.14 in 2001-02, \$1.18 in 2002-03, and \$1.22 in 2003-04 per \$100 of property valuation.

With the failure of the amendment, the Lincoln Board of Education has a lot of work ahead.

"We now have to start developing a budget based on a one-dollar levy, and there is no way we will be able to provide the same number of services," Dennis Van Horn, administrative assistant for instruction at Lincoln Public Schools, said.

Van Horn said the board may have to look at raising the issue again in May.

"I think there is a taxpayer revolt in Nebraska," Van Horn said.

"And since education is funded primarily through property taxes, instead of being spread out across other kinds of taxes, like other states, it seems as if we are asking for more."

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#4. TURKEY TOM FRESH BAKED TURKEY BREAD, TOPPED WITH LETTUCE, TOMATO, ALFALFA SPROUTS AND MAYO.

#5. VITO THE ORIGINAL ITALIAN SUB WITH GENOA SALAMI, PROVOLONE CHEESE, CAPICOLA, ONION, LETTUCE, TOMATOES & A REAL GOURMET ITALIAN VINAIAGRETTE.

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#14. THE BOOTLEGGER CLUB MEDIUM RARE ROAST BEEF AND FRESH SLICED TURKEY LOADED WITH LOTS OF LETTUCE, TOMATO & REAL HELLMANN'S MAYO. CLASSIC! CERTAINLY NOT INVENTED BY J.J. BUT DEFINITELY TWEAKED AND FINE-TUNED TO PERFECTION!

#15. CLUB TUNA THE SAME AS OUR #3 SORRY CHARLIE EXCEPT THIS ONE HAS A LOT MORE A SCOOP OF OUR HONEYWHEAT TUNA TOPPED WITH SLICED PROVOLONE CHEESE, LETTUCE, TOMATO, AND ALFALFA SPROUTS. (SEE IT ON OUR HONEYWHEAT BREAD, 4.5. A SPOON OF SEEDS, 6. MARINATED 27.2. 2000/01/01)

NINE GIANT CLUBS OUR CLUB SANDWICHES HAVE TWICE THE MEAT OF THE GOURMET SUBS AND ARE STACED BETWEEN TWO THICK SLICES OF MY HONEYWHEAT 7-GRAIN HONEYWHEAT BREAD. IF YOU WOULD PREFER IT TO OUR FRESH BREAD, JUST ASK!

#7. GOURMET SMOKED HAM CLUB A FULL 1/4 POUND OF SMOKED VIRGINIA HAM WITH PROVOLONE CHEESE AND TONS OF LETTUCE, TOMATO AND MAYO.

#8. BILLY CLUB SLICED ROAST BEEF, PROVOLONE CHEESE & GREY POUPON MUSTARD, TOPPED WITH SHAVED HAM, TOMATO, LETTUCE AND MAYO! (GOES TO MY DUTY BILLY BURNS WHO SHAVED THE GREAT GORBY)

#9. ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB REAL GENOA SALAMI, ITALIAN CAPICOLA, SMOKED HAM AND PROVOLONE CHEESE ALL TOPPED WITH LETTUCE, TOMATO, ONIONS, MAYO AND OUR HOMEMADE ITALIAN VINAIAGRETTE.

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#11. COUNTRY CLUB FRESH SLICED TURKEY BREAD, SMOKED HAM, PROVOLONE CHEESE AND TONS OF LETTUCE, TOMATO AND REAL HELLMANN'S MAYO! (SEE IT ON OUR HONEYWHEAT BREAD, 4.5. A SPOON OF SEEDS, 6. MARINATED 27.2. 2000/01/01)

#12. THE BEACH CLUB SLICED TURKEY BREAD, AVOCADO, AND CHEESE ON THE BOTTOM, ALFALFA SPROUTS, LETTUCE, TOMATO AND REAL HELLMANN'S MAYO ON TOP. (SEE IT ON OUR HONEYWHEAT BREAD, 4.5. A SPOON OF SEEDS, 6. MARINATED 27.2. 2000/01/01)

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