

Upsets hit state Legislature; Hendriksen nabs District 20

From Emerald and Associated Press reports



State Senate and House district races were full of surprises and upsets — like the race for the Senate District 20 seat.

Margie Hendriksen ousted veteran state Sen. George Wingard from his Senate District 20 seat of 14 years. She appeared the victor almost from the first batch of precinct returns Tuesday night.

Wingard, relying on early computer print-outs, had all but conceded the race, which had a tally of 17,198 to 15,642 with 80 percent of the vote in.

"I had no idea it was going to be that close," Wingard said.

Wingard, awaiting precinct returns at Harris Hall, looked tired and shaken, while Hendriksen wore a smiling face.

Before the final vote came in, Hendriksen said she was "very pleased with the trend," and predicted her margin would increase as the precinct results poured in. "Democrats tend to vote after work," she said.

Results for Senate District 20, which encompasses Eugene south of 18th Avenue and West Eugene, substantiated her prediction.

"Everything happened like we thought it would happen. In a way it's kind of anti-climatic, but I'm elated, I'm thrilled — I'm not shocked. Other people were surprised, but I'm not," Hendriksen said.

At 11 p.m., Hendriksen held 50 percent of the vote compared to Wingard's 46 percent. She said she owed her success partially to the "fantastic people" working for her.

Hendriksen said she planned to join with Democrats today to discuss who will be the next

Senate majority leader and Senate president.

Hendriksen told Wingard her good showing was due to the large voter turnout. "It was a sunny day George, a sunny day."

Hendriksen was elected to House District 40 in 1980 after beginning her political career in 1971 as a citizen lobbyist.

Hendriksen prides herself on her voting record in the area of environmental protection, the maintenance and growth of education, health and social programs and senior citizens' rights.

In Senate District 21, incumbent Democrat Ed Fadeley had no trouble holding on to his seat, defeating Republican Mike Cross, a 22-year-old University student, by a vote of 17,506 to 9,522.

As Fadeley awaited early results from District 21, which encompasses the University area, a voice in the crowd at Harris Hall summarized the veteran senator's 18 years of success at the polls. "Fadeley's sure walking away with his race again."

"It's nice not to have any jitters," said Fadeley as victory appeared certain.

Fadeley remarked during the early hours of the election night that Lane County voters were making "reasonable" choices about the ballot measures.

Republican Mary McCauley-Burrows, a five-term veteran representative, kept her District 41 seat by a 9,599 to 4,988 margin, defeating Democrat Mike Grove, a University economics professor.

"I was really nervous... I haven't had the stamina in this race, so I feel incredibly relieved," said McCauley-Burrows. "Whatever we (the Legislature) do is going to have to be progressive and bipar-

tisan."

Burrows said higher education faces a "a dire, dire situation."

"The University has to be protected," she said.

"We did what we could," said Grove, who was awaiting the returns with a somber crowd of supporters at the Brass Rail Restaurant.

But Grove said he isn't completely out of the political picture.

Grattan Kerans, 41, made it look easy in the District 39 representative race, defeating Republican Jerry Riley, 40, by a vote of 8,514 to 5,679.

"Those are my people," said a jubilant Kerans, who has served four terms.

District 39 encompasses the Bethel-Danebo and Santa Clara River Road area.

Democrat Larry Hill unseated freshman Rep. Vern Meyer in a close race for Springfield's District 42 seat.

Hill, who defeated his Republican opponent by a 8,913 to 4,014 margin, had stressed his opposition to Measures 3 and 6 during the campaign.

In the District 40 representative race, University Prof. Carl Hosticka edged two opponents, Republican Robert O'Reilly and Citizens Party candidate Laurel Paulson.

As the results were tallied for District 40, which includes the University, downtown Eugene, Sheldon High School, Gateway, and Springfield areas, Hosticka was optimistic.

"Looks good so far," he said. Hosticka said he was "encouraged" with the number of Democrats winning races. But he acknowledged that "there's going to be some tough fights" between the Democrat-controlled Legislature and Republican Gov. Vic Atiyeh.

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