

Reagan win spurs local celebration

By JAMES WALKER
Staff Writer

At the Ramada Inn in College Station, Republicans gathered on election night to await results of both national and local elections.

Reagan wins in several states kicked off a celebration that lasted into the early morning hours.

Amid several hundred supporters and a crew of journalists, Phil Gramm, candidate for the U.S. Senate predicted over three million votes to his credit and a sure win. Shortly after 8:30 p.m. he stated his appreciation for over 72,000 individual contributions to his campaign and over 100,000 volunteers making phone calls.

Flanked by his wife Wendy Lee and his two sons, Gramm said, "it's not a victory of an individual, not a victory of a party, but it's a triumph of philosophy."

"I went to Washington six years ago to change the direction of our country. And in the last four years in working with Ronald Reagan we've done it," Gramm said.

As Gramm continued, cheer and applause grew stronger. He flung the final mud in the mud-slinging campaign with his opponent Democrat Lloyd Doggett saying, "on January third I will be Lloyd Doggett's senator."

Appealing to voters statewide Gramm said, "I intend to represent him (Doggett) as my employer, and I intend to represent everyone that supported him."

Starting off on good terms with Senator Lloyd Bentsen, Gramm expressed his intent to "work with him to assure that Texas has the kind of representation it needs and expects."

Looking towards the future, the new Senator said, "America's on the right track but there's still problems out there to be dealt with."

He cited the federal deficit, problems in Central America and the Middle East and the trade deficit as areas needing attention.

In the 6th District Congressional race, Democrat Dan Kubiak and Republican Joe Barton traded the lead back and forth several times during the evening. Near midnight, precinct 20 returns pushed Barton to an advantage with 53 percent of the vote from Brazos County with five precincts still out. Precincts still out included, largely, A&M students

which were expected to vote heavily Republican.

District wide, Barton accumulated a 10,000 vote lead in the early morning hours and later returns added to the lead.

With over 9,000 newly registered Aggie students in Brazos County, local candidates waited with anticipation for results from the critical voting block. Only incumbent County Commissioner Billy Beard showed a significant early lead.

"I will be disappointed if I don't get 75 to 80 percent," Beard said.

Beard noted that he was responsible for redistricting county precincts after the 1980 census. He said he did it in such a manner as to favor the conservative representation in the county.

Republican candidate for sheriff, Ronnie Miller was grateful for the support of students at A&M. Trailing his opponent, Democrat Howard Hill, by almost 2,000 votes and expecting a sizeable windfall from the last precincts, Miller said, "if it weren't for the Aggie GOP and Victory '84 we would have been blown out of the saddle. I cannot express my gratitude to them."

Later when 100 percent of the votes were counted Miller had edged out a narrow lead with 50 percent over his opponent Howard Hill.

Early in the District Attorney's race incumbent Bill Turner scored successive victories in almost all of the precincts of Brazos County against Republican Hank Paine. In a 51 percent to 49 percent win, A&M students failed to be a deciding factor in the race.

In a stunning turnaround, former Bryan Mayor Richard Smith defeated incumbent Neeley Lewis for the State Representative seat. Early returns gave Smith a narrow lead which later widened to push him into a victorious position.

Republicans munched on snacks while watching the national returns on television sets. At pool side, a local band entertained the younger crowd while a tuxedo dressed group entertained the mature audience.



Line up to vote

Photo by PETER ROCHA

A&M students line up in the Memorial Student Center Tuesday at noon to cast their votes for the election. Student voter

turnout was unusually high in Brazos County this year. See related story page 4.

Local Democrats Kubiak, Lewis lose

By ROBIN BLACK
Senior Staff Writer

Two of the only true races Tuesday night had local Democrats holding their breath as Dan Kubiak lost to Rep. Joe Barton in the race for the 6th district Congressional seat and Neeley Lewis lost to Rep. Richard Smith in the contest for the 14th district seat in the State Legislature.

The Barton-Kubiak and Lewis-Smith races were evenly split all night long with the determining factor in at least the state race being the

Texas A&M student vote.

The precincts containing the bulk of the A&M vote were the last to be counted.

Local Democrats did claim a small victory, however, in the election of Bill Turner as the new district attorney.

Both Hill and Turner gave their acceptance speeches at the Aggie Inn by 11 p.m.

Lewis, who had counted on strong support from A&M students, lost by just under 3,000 votes. The A&M

vote had remained predominantly Republican.

Advertisements featured in The Battalion last week featured endorsements for Lewis by various student leaders.

The atmosphere at the local Democratic party headquarters while election results trickled in was something like being in the losers' locker room after a football game.

Election-watchers began trickling into the Democrats' ballroom in the Aggie Inn an hour or two before the results started coming in.

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The feeling at first was one of last-minute hope.

That feeling faded to one of resignation, however, as the different precincts across the county reported overwhelming Republican victories.

Several TVs were set up around the ballroom, and the Democrats crowded around them every time the election was updated. Only when Mondale was said to be leading the race in Washington D.C. and Minnesota did the room erupt into cheers.

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