

Pennsylvania election roundup; after the count

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Democrat Milton J. Shapp became the first Pennsylvania governor in 99 years to succeed himself and Republican Sen. Richard S. Schweiker survived a Democratic onslaught in yesterday's election.

Shapp, a 62-year-old millionaire electronics engineer, called his 307,000-vote victory — carved out of Democratic Philadelphia and its normally Republican suburbs — "a really great night for the Democrats."

Democrats regained control of the state House, in GOP hands the past two years, and lengthened their margin in the State Senate to the biggest in 36 years.

The Congress races were a standoff, remaining 14 Democrats and 11 Republicans, with some changes in personnel.

Schweiker, 48, said his triumph for a second six-year term was the result of an unprecedented share of the black vote and the support of working men and women. He referred to the fact he was one of the few Republicans in America to have AFL-CIO endorsement.

"In short we have forced a new coalition for responsible and responsive government," Schweiker told cheering supporters. "It's a new coalition based not on the politics of personalities but on the politics of substance."

Schweiker won by 254,000 over Peter F. Flaherty, the Democratic mayor of Pittsburgh, surpassing his 222,000 majority of 1968.

Shapp defeated Drew Lewis, a professional party politician making his first run for public office, but fell short of his 500,000-vote landslide four years ago.

Lewis, unknown to the public when he started 16 months ago, was consumed by the Watergate firestorm that wiped out a score of state Republicans in the State House and Senate.

He had centered his attack on Shapp's alleged tolerance of corrupt practices. Shapp responded with an accusation of "witchhunt."

Schweiker survived because he divorced himself early from Watergate and was among the first to call for President Nixon's resignation. The liberal, pro-labor image Schweiker built made massive ballot splitters of Democrats and independents — and it paid off handsomely in the big Democratic cities of Philadelphia, Scranton, Erie, Wilkes-Barre, Reading and Allentown.

It was especially important in Philadelphia where Shapp piled up a 223,000-vote advantage, the largest ever for a gubernatorial candidate.

Schweiker neutralized Flaherty in Philadelphia, losing by 3,300, a startling improvement over 1968 when he lost the city by 195,000.

"Our close vote in Philadelphia was the modern day record for a Republican candidate," Schweiker said.

About 63 per cent of the 5.5 million registered voters — a total of 3.3 million — went to the 9,618 polling places on a gloomy day dampened by occasional showers. It was the smallest turnout since 1942 when 2.5 million, or 55 per cent, participated in the electoral process but exceeded the 49 per cent predicted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Lewis was admittedly disappointed at his showing after predicting he'd win by 100,000. "We still have a job ahead to

do," Lewis told a subdued group of supporters. "We have a major rebuilding job in the Republican Party and I'd like to be a part of that. I think we need a two party system. I feel it's necessary to get more people involved in politics."

Flaherty, boasting he was a poor man's candidate, said his campaign cost around \$150,000, cheapest of any major statewide candidate in modern Pennsylvania history.

Schweiker spent around \$700,000 while Lewis, and Shapp each had a \$1.5 million campaign budget.

Flaherty blamed his lack of cash and what he said was failure of newspapers and television to give him adequate coverage as major factors in his defeat.

Not since 1875, when Republican John F. Hartranft was elected to a second term, has any governor succeeded himself. Shapp was the first allowed to try because of the 1968 constitutional amendment.

Democrats had a net gain of at least 19 state House seats, giving them a minimum lead in the lower chamber of 114-87. In the current legislature, which expires Nov. 30, Republicans have a 108-95 advantage.

Fifteen Republican incumbents lost. No Democrats lost.

In the Senate Democrats increased their margin to 29-21, a gain of two, with the major surprises in Delaware County where a Democrat was elected to replace retiring Sen. Clyde R. Dengler, 75, and in Allegheny County where voters retired GOP Sen. Robert Fleming.

In the Congress fights, Democrats won the Delaware County district for the first time in history but lost their 20-year hold on Frank Clark's seat in western Pennsylvania.

The senior Congressional Republican, Herman T. Schneebeli, barely survived the debacle, narrowly winning an eighth term over Democrat Peter Wambach, a Harrisburg broadcaster.

The Rev. Robert W. Edgar, Methodist chaplain at Drexel University, knocked off Delaware County Dist. Atty. Stephen McEwen, the organization candidate who had ousted incumbent Republican Lawrence Williams in a bitter primary.

Edgar tagged the GOP organization with corruption to win the 7th District seat.

Clark was turned out by Republican Gary Myers in the 25th District that embraces Butler, Lawrence, Beaver and parts of Allegheny counties.

Other important Congressional fights:

Democrat John Murtha easily defeated Republican Harry M. Fox in western Pennsylvania's 12th district. Murtha last February had defeated Fox by 100 votes in a special election.

Republican William Goodling was elected to succeed his father, George, who retired after six terms.

And Republican Richard Schulze captured the seat held by retiring John Ware, also a Republican.

Campaign spending was an issue only in the senate race.

Four years ago Shapp spent nearly \$2 million of his own money in wresting the state-house from the Republicans who then denounced him for allegedly buying the election.

This time Shapp said he contributed only \$15,000.

The Shapp majority is the fifth largest in gubernatorial election history.

Elections '74 Demos unseat State GOP'S

Identical voting trends elect Shapp, Schweiker

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Democratic Gov. Milton Shapp and Republican U.S. Sen. Richard Schweiker were swept into office by voting trends that look almost identical.

Despite their party differences, both candidates scored surprisingly well in areas that previously were awarded to the opposition: Shapp carried Delaware County, a GOP stronghold; and Schweiker pulled 62 per cent of his victory margin from the five southeast counties, including Philadelphia which has the state's strongest Democratic machine.

In the northeastern counties, where Republican Drew Lewis tried to convince voters that Shapp did not help them enough during Tropical Storm Agnes, the governor carried the area by 12,000 votes.

And in Lackawanna County, a Democrat labor stronghold, Schweiker beat his opponent Peter Flaherty by almost 10,000 votes.

Schweiker, of course, campaigned with the endorsement of the state AFL-CIO, not the kind of backing commonly connected with Republican candidates.

Instead of dodging the salvos fired from the House Committee investigating state corruption and his 1970 campaign finances, the governor marched in front of the television cameras and gave three days of testimony

that all but reduced the committee probe to a witchhunt.

Both Shapp and Schweiker did poorly in Pennsylvania's southwestern counties — Fayette, Allegheny, Washington, Westmoreland and Beaver.

But Schweiker's opponent is mayor of Pittsburgh, the region's largest city; and Shapp's opponent borrowed almost half of his campaign money from Richard Mellon Scaife, heir to one of the area's largest fortunes.

In some ways, Shapp and Schweiker are viewed as friends of the working man. Schweiker had his AFL-CIO backing as well as a strong record for pushing through benefits for victims of "black lung disease." Shapp, on the other hand, allied himself mostly with the workers last winter when he helped settle the truck drivers strike.

Republicans who were worried about voter apathy as an outgrowth of Watergate found that the problem was not a low turnout as some had feared, but rather a definite trend toward putting Democrats in office.

The U.S. Census Bureau had predicted that 49 per cent of the state's registered voters would cast ballots. But about 62 per cent voted. That's not a figure to be proud of, it represents the lowest vote cast in a gubernatorial election since World War II.

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Democrats recaptured the state House yesterday and helped themselves to their biggest Senate majority since the Depression.

Unofficial figures gave Democrats 29 of the 50 Senate seats, up from the current 27-23.

In the House, Democrats turned a 108-95 deficit into a 114-88 advantage with one seat undecided. Democrats took over 20 Republican districts while the GOP could win only one Democratic seat.

The Democratic margins will give Gov. Shapp the opportunity to push through legislative programs which often were stymied by the Republican House. It was an all-Democrat legislature which passed the state's income tax in 1971, although some Republicans supported the levy.

Republican incumbents lost, but go Democrat suffered the same fate.

Among the losers were Donald W. Fox, Republican caucus chairman; H. Francis Kennedy, chairman of the Agriculture and Dairy Industries Committee; and Stanley Kester, a 10-year GOP stalwart from Delaware County and chairman of the Liquor Control Committee which investigated Shapp administration liquor practices.

Democrats attempted to make the House elections a referendum on the conduct of GOP House investigating committees, including Kester's. Their main target was the committee on contract practices which tried to convince voters the Shapp administration was corrupt.

The panel delved into Gov. Shapp's 1970 campaign financing, his firing of a cabinet member, his business dealings and forced political contributions. Gov. Shapp appeared voluntarily before the panel for three days and politicians from both parties said his performance blunted the GOP attack.

Six members of the contract committee — headed by Rep. Patrick Gleason, R-Cambria — won re-election. A seventh lost in the May primary.

Four of the Republican losses were in Delaware County, a one-time GOP stronghold which went Democratic in several races, including the governor's contest.

In the Senate, Democratic challenger Edward M. Early upset Republican Robert D. Fleming, a legislator since 1939. Until Early, a House member, announced for the Senate, he and Fleming rode to Harrisburg together in the same car pool.

The normally Republican 26th senatorial district of Delaware County also went Democratic, with John J. Sweeney squeezing by F. Joseph Loeper Jr. Insiders

from both parties had given Sweeney almost no chance of winning.

Incumbent Republican Robert A. Rovner, who was indicted on extortion charges last month, was trounced by H. Craig Lewis, a 30-year-old Democratic attorney from Feasterville, Bucks County. The district extends into Philadelphia.

AP news analysis

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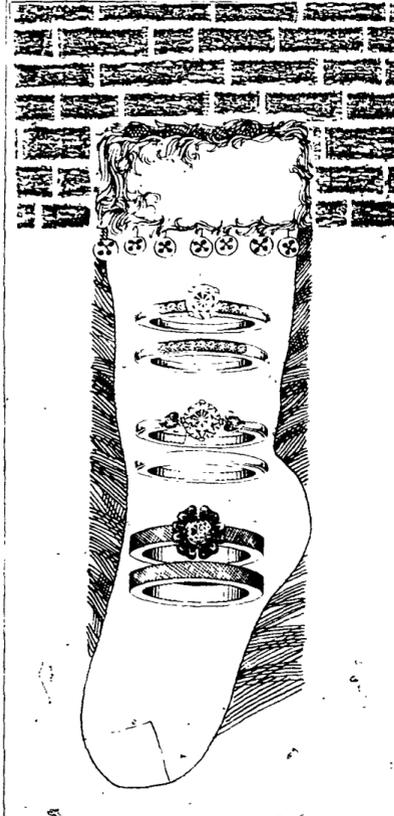


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