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TAFT, REPUBLICANS SWEEP ALL STATEWIDE RACES; GOP STRENGTHENS GRIP ON LEGISLATURE

Governor Bob Taft led fellow Republicans to victory in every statewide race Tuesday, cementing GOP control of Ohio's executive offices for another four years, according to final, unofficial election results.

The GOP-nominated candidates for the Ohio Supreme Court were also successful in winning hotly contested races on Tuesday, and Republicans in the Ohio House and Senate extended their control of the 125th General Assembly which convenes in January. *(See separate stories)*

Mr. Taft easily dispatched Democratic challenger Tim Hagan, whose campaign appeared to have little chance from the beginning, considering the enormous fundraising advantage the governor held throughout the effort. Mr. Taft and running mate Jennette Bradley pulled in 58% of the vote, while Mr. Hagan and running mate Charleta Tavares won the support of 38% of voters. Independent John Eastman and running mate Sadie Stewart pulled in 4% of the vote.

Ms. Bradley will become the state's first African-American lieutenant governor when she takes the oath of office in January. The results of the governor's race will extend to 16 consecutive years GOP control of that office.

Soaking in his victory with ecstatic Republicans gathered at a Columbus hotel, a jubilant Governor Taft said the election results are an "elephant stampede...I'm very proud to have led the most experienced, most diverse ticket in the history of our state," he declared. Mr. Taft also received a congratulatory call from President George W. Bush on Tuesday night.

A more subdued Mr. Hagan, who watched election results from Cleveland with most of the Democratic statewide candidates, again raised issues discussed in the campaign. "I would hope that the issue of urban policy could be put back on the agenda because some of the cities are devastated," he said. "There are very, very poor people in some of our counties across the state and I hope somebody will look out for that as well."

As expected, the closest statewide race came in the treasurer's campaign, in which incumbent Republican Joe Deters won by a 54% to 46% margin. He defeated former Cuyahoga County Commissioner Mary Boyle, whose campaign focused largely on questions about Mr. Deters' fundraising tactics and office operations. Mr. Deters, who planned earlier in the year to run for attorney general, stayed largely out of the limelight during the race.

While Ohioans will not see any new faces in executive offices next year, two Republicans were successful in swapping jobs. Attorney General Betty D. Montgomery was elected state auditor and State Auditor Jim Petro was elected attorney general. Mr. Petro defeated state Senator Leigh Herington (D-Rootstown Twp.) by a significant margin and Ms. Montgomery handily defeated Helen Knipe Smith.

Mr. Petro won 64% of the vote against Senator Herington. Ms. Montgomery received 65% of the vote.

Also winning re-election was Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, who easily defeated Democratic state Rep. Bryan Flannery of Lakewood. Mr. Blackwell, whose office oversees elections and manages the state's business services, won 59% of the vote, compared to Mr. Flannery's 41%.

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REPUBLICANS STRATTON, O'CONNOR WIN OHIO SUPREME COURT RACES; CHIEF JUSTICE TO OUTLINE PLAN TO REIGN IN INDEPENDENT COURT CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

Republicans maintained their 5-2 political control of the Ohio Supreme Court in Tuesday's election and may have won a philosophical majority as well through the presumed creation of a new 4-3 voting block that physicians, insurance companies and corporations apparently anticipate will be more friendly to their interests.

Republican Lieutenant Governor Maureen O'Connor easily won election to an open seat on the court, defeating Democratic Hamilton County Municipal Court Judge Tim Black for the right to succeed retiring GOP Justice Andrew Douglas. Ms. O'Connor captured 58% of the vote to Mr. Black's 42% for a term that begins January 1, 2003.

Incumbent Republican Justice Evelyn Stratton handily won election to a second term as she defeated Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Janet Burnside, a Democrat. Results gave Ms. Stratton 56% of the vote and Ms. Burnside 44% for a term beginning January 2, 2003.

As a result of Tuesday's balloting, women will in 2003 for the first time outnumber men on the state's highest court.

The court races tended to overshadow the rest of the ballot, including the governor's race, due mainly to millions of dollars pumped into television advertising by independent committees of corporate interests, backing the Republican candidates, and trial lawyer-labor groups supporting Democrats. All four judicial candidates disavowed involvement of the outside committees which, because of their issue advocacy status, did not have to disclose contributors or otherwise comply with campaign finance laws.

The raucous campaign also triggered complaints before the Ohio Elections Commission and against individual candidates through the high court's disciplinary process. However, when the dust settled only one candidate--Ms. O'Connor--had been found by a three-judge appeals court panel to have violated the Code of Judicial Conduct. She aired a television commercial that depicted her as a sitting judge when in fact she was lieutenant governor and a former judge. Ms. O'Connor has pledged to appeal the finding. Separately, a three-judge appeals court panel meeting in Akron on Monday dismissed an allegation against Judge Black over a TV commercial.

Chief Justice Thomas Moyer, who last spring asked the General Assembly to enact legislation to require independent committees to identify their contributors, said Tuesday night he would step up his efforts in that regard. "On Thursday I'm going to speak to the retail merchants luncheon, and I'm going to devote my entire speech to that and what I think should happen. I will be increasing my efforts," Mr. Moyer said.

Apparently scrapped as a result of the election was a bipartisan majority that had previously produced a series of 4-3 decisions in school funding, insurance, product liability, personal injury and other cases.irate business groups characterized the majority as the "Gang of Four"--Republican Justices Douglas and Paul Pfeifer and Democrats Alice Resnick and Francis Sweeney. Now that Ms. O'Connor has won the seat of Mr. Douglas, who was barred from seeking another term due to age limits, the projected business-friendly majority would be: Chief Justice Moyer, Justice Stratton, Justice Deborah Cook and Justice-elect O'Connor--all Republicans.

New justices sometimes have a way of surprising their supporters, but that has not been the case with, for example, Justices Stratton and Cook. Clearly Governor Bob Taft and U.S. Senator George Voinovich believe they know how Justice-elect O'Connor and Justice Stratton will come down on the issue of tort reform, specifically caps on jury awards in medical malpractice cases. Both the governor and senator urged a rally of physicians at the Statehouse seeking relief from high liability insurance premiums to work for the election of the Republican judicial candidates.

Justice Stratton said she did not attend the rally because of its partisan nature. "I do not believe I have any right to control their free speech, but I have repeatedly said that I have never advocated that I am for tort reform. The only thing I will say is I am for judicial restraint. Different people put different spins on that," she told *Gongwer News Service* in a pre-election interview. "I appreciate the support of the doctors, but I did not want to appear, 'Our side, your side'...I want to try to maintain as best I can in this charged atmosphere my statement of political independence and impartiality."

Justice Stratton alluded to the negative campaign commercials aired against her when she addressed a jubilant Republican victory party Tuesday night. "I've got a message for Ohio. You can run a positive campaign and win," she said. She thanked sponsors of the negative ads for aiding her victory, suggesting there was a backlash against the spots.

Justice-elect O'Connor, a former common pleas judge and magistrate, indicated she was trying to carry out a timetable she had already identified for a return to the judiciary. "This is the opportunity. I'm thrilled. I couldn't be happier," she said.

Governor Taft said he believes a majority of the Ohio Supreme Court, criticized in the past for legislating from the bench, now believes in judicial restraint. "We now have a Supreme Court that will simply do the job the third branch of government is supposed to do which is to interpret the law impartially and fairly and vigorously," Mr. Taft told reporters. "If we get out of line from the standpoint of the Constitution I'm sure that they will let us know."

Tuesday's election results aside, the makeup of the court could change again should the U.S. Senate act yet this year on President Bush's nomination of Justice Cook to a seat on the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Bush could resubmit Ms. Cook's name next year. Her departure would allow Governor Taft to appoint a successor.

Chief Justice Moyer said the presence of more women than men on the court starting next year is an indication of "the tremendous progress women have made in the bar," noting women represent about 50% of law school enrollment. "I think it's a very good sign that that could happen. The deficiency we have is that we don't have any persons of color," he said.

Chamber Ads: Citizens for a Strong Ohio, the Ohio Chamber of Commerce issue advocacy group that backed the candidacy of Justice Stratton, voluntarily disclosed Tuesday it had received an additional \$140,000 in corporate contributions for its effort. That brought the total spent on radio advertising to \$1,158,500. The single largest contribution received since October 29th was \$75,000 from the American Insurance Association. The Philip Morris Company provided \$40,000, while State Farm Insurance chipped in \$15,000. Citizens for a Strong Ohio received \$5,000 from 21st Century Insurance, and \$2,500 each from the National Federation of Independent Business Ohio and the Verizon Company.

REPUBLICANS PAD MAJORITY IN HOUSE, PICK UP THREE SEATS BY OUSTING INCUMBENTS COATES, RHINE & SULZER

The partisan pendulum in the House swung further to the right Tuesday as Republicans knocked off three incumbents in an election where Democrats had hoped to begin climbing out of their woeful minority status. Unofficially, the GOP secured 62 seats to the Democrats' 37.

"Democrats should take from this that they need to work with us instead of trying to play political games and block the system," Speaker Larry Householder (R-Glenford) said after the somewhat surprising end result became apparent. "There was a couple of these races where these 'no' votes as far as the budget was concerned made a difference. We were able to win seats because of that."

House Minority Leader Dean DePiero (D-Parma) disagreed. "It was a combination of things - reapportionment obviously played a role," he said. "The top of the ticket got beat pretty bad and we were outresourced."

Backed with an exponentially larger campaign fund than was available to the minority caucus, the House GOP pounded foes with television ads casting Democratic candidates as being opposed to everything imaginable funded by the state budget. Republicans also pointed to past votes on budgets and even responses to questionnaires in branding Democrats as supporters of "tax hikes."

Republicans controlled the State Apportionment Board 4-1 last year, allowing leaders to rearrange boundaries to protect incumbents and plan for the future. The GOP was thus able to temper the potential electoral damage triggered by lost jobs, high prescription drug costs and skyrocketing tuition rates.

"When you have the pen and draw the districts and have all the money - and then some of the things they threw at our candidates," Mr. DePiero observed, "it's hard to combat that."

Among the surprises Tuesday was the ouster of Rep. Joseph Sulzer (D-Chillicothe) by Republican challenger John Schlichter, a Fayette County commissioner, in the **85th House District** race. Mr. Schlichter, a late ballot entry after Rep. Dennis Stapleton (R-Washington Court House) dropped out of the race, was one of several well-backed beneficiaries of the multimillion dollar caucus fund. Also somewhat surprising was Mr. Schlichter's 54% to 46% margin of victory, according to unofficial results.

The rematch in Hamilton County's **28th House District** went to Republican Jim Raussen, an insurance claims specialist who lost to Rep. Wayne Coates (D-Forest Park) in 2000 by only 535 votes. Reapportionment changes proved key for the GOP as Mr. Raussen won easily by a final, unofficial margin of 59% to 41%.

In two races pitting incumbents against one another because of apportionment changes to districts, the results were a partisan split. Republican Merle Kearns defeated Democrat and fellow Springfield resident Ron Rhine in the **72nd House District** contest by an unofficial tally of 57% to 43%. As expected, Democrat Chris Redfern of Catawba Island parlayed a home field advantage - he retained 80% of his district in reapportionment - into a win over Republican Tom Lendrum of Huron. The unofficial margin was 56% to 44% in the **80th House District**.

Polarizing Democrat James Pancake, a township trustee who had infuriated some environmentalists with his support of a coal mine development, was defeated by Republican Jimmy Stewart, the Athens City auditor with a strong following among Ohio University students, in the race for the **92nd House District**. The unofficial margin was 58% to 42%.

All 99 seats were up for votes Tuesday, but only a handful were competitive. Republicans were unchallenged by Democrats in 13 contests, including the race for the new **86th House District** conceded to Highland County Commissioner David T. Daniels. Minority party candidates got a free ride in four heavily Democratic districts.

Republican Clyde Evans, a Rio Grande College official, won the redrawn **87th House District** in southern Ohio. In the new **97th House District** in north central Ohio that was also tailor made for the majority party, Republican Bob Gibbs, a farm business owner from Lakeville, won as expected. Former television weatherman John Domenick, who ousted incumbent Rep. Eileen Krupinski (D-Steubenville) in the primary, retained eastern Ohio's **95th House District** for Democrats.

Final, unofficial results in other contested races:

- The **18th House District** left open with the departure of Rep. Erin Sullivan (D-Strongsville) was won by Republican Thomas Patton, a marketing consultant, who bested Democrat Sue Adams, a Berea City Schools employee by 52% to 48%.
- Democrat Dan Stewart, a union representative, defeated David Dobos, a business owner who formerly served on the Columbus Public School board, by 55% to 45%, in the **25th House District** formerly served by Rep. Amy Salerno (R-Columbus).

- With the backing of term-limited incumbent Rep. Twyla Roman (R-Akron), Republican Mary Taylor, a Green City Council member, assumed the **43rd House District** seat by defeating Democrat Michael Grimm, an autoworker from Uniontown.
- One-term Rep. Jeffrey Manning (R-North Ridgeville), an attorney, handily defeated Democrat David Bruening in the **57th House District** race by 55% to 45%.
- Democrats were successful in efforts to retake the **68th House District** left open by term-limited Rep. Ann Womer Benjamin (R-Aurora), who lost a race for Congress. Portage County Commissioner Kathleen Chandler, a Democrat from Kent, defeated Republican Terri Hauenstein, a management consultant from Aurora, 55% to 45%.
- Rep. Derrick Seaver (D-Minster) won his second legislative campaign victory by the age of 20 in one of the most conservative areas of the state by easily defeating Republican John Adams, a furniture store owner from Sidney, in the **78th House District** tilt. The Democrat proved that his win 2000, when he was described as a “novelty,” was no fluke by parlaying crucial support from Ohio Right-to-Life and the National Rifle Association into a 58% to 42% victory.
- Democrat Carol McKeever, a Tipp City councilwoman, couldn’t overcome severe Republican bias in losing western Ohio’s **79th House District** contest to Rep. Diana Fessler (R-New Carlisle), who carried 69% of the vote compared to the Democrat’s 31%.
- Term-limited Rep. William Ogg (D-Sciotoville) was able to pass the baton to fellow Democrat Todd Book, an assistant Scioto County prosecutor, in the race for the redrawn **89th House District**. Mr. Book defeated Republican Harold Sayre, former school official, by a 59% to 41% margin provided mostly by Scioto County voters.

REPUBLICANS APPARENTLY EKE OUT AN EXTRA SENATE SEAT, CLAIM SHOEMAKER’S TURF WITH SURPRISING EASE

It appeared it couldn’t get any worse for Democrats who have languished for years in the Senate minority, but it did Tuesday night when the GOP apparently beat the odds and grabbed another seat. If the numbers hold up from a close race in northern Ohio, Republicans will hold a 22-11 majority in the 125th General Assembly.

The close race occurred in the **13th Senate District**, where Senator Jeffrey Armbruster (R-North Ridgeville), a convenience store and gas station owner, held a slim 524-vote lead over Sue Morano, a registered nurse, according to final, unofficial results provided by the secretary of state’s office. The winning percentage was slightly above the half-percent margin that would trigger a mandatory recount, but the unofficial totals do not include absentee ballots.

Perhaps the biggest surprise of the evening occurred in the redrawn **17th Senate District** where veteran Senator Michael Shoemaker (D-Bourneville), whose family name has been on local ballots for more than four decades thanks in part to the longtime service of father Myrl, was ousted fairly easily by term-limited Rep. John Carey (R-Wellston). The former House Finance chairman won by a 54% to 46% margin, according to the secretary of state’s final, unofficial results.

In another northern Ohio race where Democrats had held out hope, appointed Senator Kevin Coughlin (R-Cuyahoga Falls) was able to fend off Democrat Tom Bevan, an attorney, in the bitterly contested fight for Summit County’s **27th Senate District**. More than \$1 million was spent by the Republican’s backers in the final two weeks of the campaign. Unofficially, Senator Coughlin carried 53% to Mr. Bevan’s 47%.

A pleased Senate President Richard Finan (R-Evendale) credited Senators Armbruster and Coughlin for campaigning hard. “They were very tough races. Armbruster is a fist-fight every time,” he said.

The additional seat, if it holds up, will be a big victory for the term-limited GOP leader, who suggested it was also bittersweet. “There’s a sense of frustration that you can’t share in the spoils,” Senator Finan said.

Added Senate GOP Chief of Staff Teri Geiger, “We wanted to send him out on a high note.”

Senate Minority Leader Greg DiDonato (D-Dennison) had hoped to pick up a seat or two, but acknowledged late Tuesday he was outgunned by a superior Republican war chest and couldn't overcome the GOP-controlled reconfiguration of district boundaries. He also blamed gubernatorial candidate Tim Hagan and other members at the top of the Democratic ticket for not synchronizing their message with legislative candidates.

"It makes it tough when there's no clear message at the top of the ticket," Senator DiDonato said, adding that Mr. Hagan "could have been echoing the same things we were talking about," such as high tuition, education funding issues and prescription drug costs.

"There's no doubt it was a tough night across the board for Democrats," Senator DiDonato said. "There's still a huge money disparity, we have to be frank."

Although 17 Senate seats - the odd-numbered districts - were up for grabs this year, only five were closely watched battlegrounds.

The **3rd Senate District** in Franklin County proved to be too Republican-leaning for Democrat Debra Payne, a Gahanna City councilwoman, to unseat Senator David Goodman (R-Bexley), an appointee whose campaign had to work hard to boost his name recognition. Senator Goodman won easily as he had forecast, with a 58% to 42% margin, according to unofficial results.

Similarly, Republicans were unable to overcome the Democratic index of the **5th Senate District**, which encompasses Dayton and some suburbs to the north. Senator Tom Roberts (D-Trotwood), another appointee, defeated Republican Mike Osgood, a community activist and former small business owner, by an unofficial margin of 52% to 48%.

Former Rep. Robert Schuler (R-Cincinnati), forced out of the House by term limits in 2000, was elected to serve the 7th Senate District. Also victorious in efforts to replace term-limited members were current Reps. Teresa Fedor (D-Toledo) in the 11th Senate District, Ray Miller (D-Columbus) in the 15th Senate District, and Kirk Schuring (R-Canton) in the 29th Senate District.

Other victors included incumbent Senators Lynn Wachtmann (R-Napoleon), Bill Harris (R-Ashland), Dan Brady (D-Cleveland), Eric Fingerhut (D-Cleveland) and Robert Hagan (D-Youngstown). Senators Mark Mallory (D-Cincinnati), C.J. Prentiss (D-Cleveland) and Jay Hottinger (R-Newark) were unopposed.

DRUG TREATMENT ISSUE SMACKED DOWN AT POLLS BUT ADVOCATES SAY THEY'LL BE BACK; DAYTON, TOLEDO, COLUMBUS SCHOOL ISSUES WIN; COLUMBUS CAR RENTAL TAX FAILS

An attempt by three wealthy drug law reformers to inject a policy change in the Ohio Constitution through a treatment in lieu of jail amendment was soundly rejected in Tuesday's election.

Voters defeated State Issue 1 by a margin of 67% to 33%, with the issue failing in each of the state's 88 counties. Only in Cuyahoga County was the result even close: 52% against the issue, 48% in favor. Issue 1 would have required judges to order treatment instead of jail for certain non-violent first and second-time offenders who requested it.

The outcome was never really in doubt. Governor Bob Taft, who with his wife Hope were the most outspoken opponents of the measure, congratulated cheering campaign workers less than an hour after the polls closed for defeating "this pernicious issue." Separately, Ed Orlett, director of the pro-Issue 1 campaign, pledged that drug law reformers would be back, possibly as soon as the 2004 election.

Partisans on both sides of the measure acknowledged the campaign was probably over when the Ohio Ballot Board approved official language that pointed out high in the text a requirement that the state spend \$247 million on treatment programs. There was no mention that the net expense would be significantly less because treatment, as Issue 1 backers pointed out, costs much less than prison.

The Ohio Campaign for New Drug Policies also may have underestimated the degree to which the Governor and Mrs. Taft would marshal the forces of state government and treatment providers against the amendment.

A broad-based, nonpartisan coalition was assembled under the banner Ohioans Against Unsafe Drug Laws, and the Tafts help raise money necessary for an effective television campaign. Issue 1 backers complained that opponents were trying to scare voters with images of a drug offender released from jail who then would become a surgeon, airline pilot or school bus driver.

Opponents of Issue 1 staged the first victory party of the night at a downtown hotel Tuesday. Mr. Taft characterized the drive against the amendment as "a superb effort, in many ways, I think, an historic effort as we look across the country to issues like this." He singled out his wife for special recognition, describing the co-chair of the campaign as "Issue One's public enemy number one, and that's the First Lady, Hope Taft. You know, I tried to warn the backers of Issue 1 not to mess with Hope Taft, but they didn't listen to me." The governor also praised committee co-chair Jack Ford, the Democratic mayor of Toledo and former House Minority Leader, describing him as "a true profile in courage on the issue."

Issue 1 was financed mainly by three wealthy individuals--George Soros, John Sperling and Peter Lewis--who spent \$1 million on a petition drive to place the amendment on the ballot and another \$500,000 on a comparatively tiny television advertising campaign and administrative expenses. Mrs. Taft told supporters they had sent a message to amendment backers who thought their money could buy Ohio voters. "I'm here to tell you that we told them Ohio is not for sale," she said.

Mr. Orlett, the former state representative who was director of the Ohio Campaign for New Drug Policies, left little doubt the amendment would resurface. "They've only won a small scuffle in a larger battle," he said. "2004 looks awfully good to me. It's a presidential year," Mr. Orlett said, noting that more voters would head to the polls. "We just have to work a little harder to explain it."

A constitutional amendment is about the only avenue for Issue 1 advocates to follow. A legislative version of the amendment has been ignored in the Senate. "It's difficult to imagine the legislature ever funding this," Mr. Orlett said.

Governor Taft said one reason opponents were able to defeat Issue 1 was the progress Ohio has made on expanding treatment to offenders in prison and through drug courts. "We have an opportunity to continue to build on the foundation that we have already laid in Ohio, to continue expanding treatment for offenders, to continue to expand the number of drug courts, to continue by changing lives, turning around lives, with effective, tough love treatment. That's our commitment. That's what we will do in the years ahead," Mr. Taft said.

Curt Steiner, the Republican consultant who has been involved in dozens of candidate and issue campaigns, called his work against Issue 1 among the most satisfying of any of them. "I think we were able to demonstrate that an Ohio campaign is better than a national campaign. I think that's why we won," Mr. Steiner said. He said that if backers of Issue 1 return they will do so with a different proposal. "This one was flawed from the start. A big flaw is that they did a constitutional amendment...it made it possible to galvanize opposition. People who felt they supported part of it, but opposed the rest of it, really needed to be against it because it was a constitutional amendment and it couldn't be fixed," he said.

Elsewhere on the issues front around the state:

Columbus: Voters approved a \$392 million bond issue which, when combined with \$129 million in state money, will be used to replace 26 schools and renovate 12 other buildings. The proposal represents the first phase of a \$1.6 billion, 15-year program to update school buildings. "I think this is great for our school system. But what's good for our school system and for our children is good for the city and good for the future of the city," said Mayor Michael Coleman. The bond issue was approved 54% to 46%.

Separately, voters rejected a \$4 a day tax on rental cars that Mayor Coleman and city council supported to help deal with a projected \$30 million deficit next year. The levy, which would have raised \$10 million to \$12 million depending on who was making the estimate, was challenged by rental car companies and the Ohio Taxpayers Association. The referendum on the car rental ordinance: 62% against the tax, 38% in favor.

Akron: Voters rejected a unique school construction funding proposal in Summit County. Issue 12 would have raised the sales tax from 5.75% to 6.25% for 30 years, with the estimated \$32 million raised annually distributed on a per-pupil basis among 17 school districts in the county to help finance capital improvement projects. Akron would have received about \$11 million since it has 38% of the county's public school students. The money could not have been used for operating expenses. Voters rejected the idea 54% to 46%.

Dayton: Voters approved a \$245 million bond issue to raise the local share of a school construction program. The margin was 64% in favor to 36% against.

Cincinnati: A \$480 million bond issue to provide the local share of a \$1 billion school building and renovation project over the next decade was narrowly defeated, 51% to 49%. The plan had called for construction of 35 schools and renovation of 31 others.

Separately, voters soundly rejected, 68% to 32%, a half-cent Hamilton County sales tax that would have helped finance construction of five light rail lines and provided for a number of other projects including expansion of the existing bus system and streetcar lines along the Ohio River in downtown Cincinnati.

Cleveland: Voters decided by a wide margin--72% in favor, 28% against--that Cleveland's mayor will continue to have authority to appoint members of the city school district board of education. The mayoral appointment system has been in effect for the last four years. Had the issue been rejected Tuesday, the board would have reverted to an elected system with the first new members chosen in November 2003.

Toledo: By a narrow margin, 51% to 49%, voters approved a 4.9 mill property tax levy for 28 years to generate the local share of money needed for an \$821 million construction program in Toledo Public Schools. The levy would raise \$184 million for the project, along with \$24 million for items the state will not finance. The state will provide \$614 million, or 77%, of the total project cost. District plans call for replacing 57 schools and renovating several others.

RYAN WINS TRAFICANT'S SEAT; TURNER BEATS CARNE IN 3RD DISTRICT

Democratic State Senator Tim Ryan of Niles became the second state legislator in two years to move from the General Assembly to Congress by defeating Republican State Rep. Ann Womer Benjamin and jailed former Rep. James Traficant in Tuesday's election. The winner hauled in 51% of the vote, Rep. Womer Benjamin won 34%, while Mr. Traficant drew support from 15% of voters.

Voters in the 3^d District also elected a new member to Congress: Republican Mike Turner, a former Dayton mayor who won the 3^d District seat vacated by former Rep. Tony Hall. Mr. Turner defeated Democrat Rick Carne, Mr. Hall's former chief of staff by a 59% to 41% margin.

Each of the state's 16 other members of Congress successfully defended their seats. None were seriously challenged.

The race between Ms. Womer Benjamin Senator Ryan drew more attention than many others this fall because the 17th District ballots also included the name of former Rep. Traficant, who was expelled from the House this summer and is now incarcerated in a federal prison in rural Pennsylvania.

Senator Ryan, 29, also drew attention to the race when he upset long-time Rep. Tom Sawyer of Akron in the Democratic primary. The district, along with each of Ohio's 18 districts, was modified by the General Assembly in the decennial redistricting process.

National congressional committees on each side of the aisle determined the seat was crucial to the composition of the U.S. House, which appeared at deadline on track to remain under Republican control.

Mr. Turner, who became president of JMD Development and corporate counsel for MTC International after losing in a re-election run for the mayor's job in Dayton, defeated Mr. Carne, an 18-year Congressional aide, former utility company executive and former Montgomery County treasurer. Re-elected to represent the state in the U.S. House were:

- Republican Steve Chabot of Cincinnati, 1st District;
- Republican Rob Portman of Terrace Park, 2nd District;
- Republican Michael G. Oxley of Findlay, 4th District;
- Republican Paul E. Gillmor of Old Fort, 5th District;
- Democrat Ted Strickland of Lucasville, 6th District;
- Republican Dave Hobson of Springfield, 7th District;
- Republican John Boehner of West Chester, 8th District;
- Democrat Marcy Kaptur of Toledo, 9th District;
- Democrat Dennis J. Kucinich of Cleveland, 10th District;
- Democrat Stephanie Tubbs Jones of Cleveland, 11th District;
- Republican Pat Tiberi of Columbus, 12th District;
- Democrat Sherrod Brown of Lorain, 13th District;
- Republican Steven C. LaTourette of Madison, 14th District;
- Republican Deborah Pryce of Columbus, 15th District;
- Republican Ralph Regula of Navarre, 16th District, and;
- Republican Bob Ney of St. Clairsville, 18th District.

The closest of the races involving incumbents was in the 6th District, where Rep. Strickland won 59% of the vote, compared to Republican Mike Halleck, who won 41% of the vote.

FORMER OCLC DIRECTOR FIRST RECIPIENT OF INFORMATION INNOVATION AWARD

Frederick G. Kilgour, the first director of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) will receive the inaugural George V. Voinovich Award for Information Innovation as presented by OhioLINK, the nation's leading academic library consortium. The award recognizes an individual who develops and champions solutions to the problem of connecting people and information effectively and efficiently.

Created by the Ohio Board of Regents in recognition of OhioLINK's 10 years of service, the award is named after Senator Voinovich, who as Ohio governor, spearheaded approval of OhioLINK's initial major funding in 1992. After incorporation of OCLC in 1967, Mr. Kilgour was appointed executive director and was the sole employee with the task of designing and developing the information lending system. By 1971, OCLC's staff of six had introduced a system for shared online cataloging and, by 1979, they had introduced one for interlibrary lending. The first international office in Birmingham, England, was established in 1981 and today OCLC serves 43,000 libraries and territories around the world.

MEETING NOTICE

- The **Radioactive Waste Committee**, Department of Health, will meet at 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6 in the Basement Small Conference Room, 246 N. High St., Columbus.
- The **Ohio Commission on Hispanic/Latino Affairs** will meet at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the Rehabilitation Services Commission, Columbus-Zanesville Rooms, 400 Campus View Blvd., Columbus. Prior to the full commission meeting, the Executive Committee and the Finance Committee will meet at the same location at 10:30 a.m. and 12 noon, respectively.

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