



Democrat Steve Cowper, governor-elect, gets a hug from Gov. Bill Sheffield election night.

photo by Norris Klesman

Alaskans choose Cowper-McAlpine

by A.J. McClanahan

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Editor's note: Complete vote totals are shown on Page Eight. At press time, one race remained uncertain. In the race for State Senate District H-B, Democratic incumbent Sen. Vic Fischer had an apparent victory over Republican challenger Rick Uehling.

Fischer had 6,593 votes — 49.9 percent of the vote — compared to 6,565 votes for Uehling — 49.7 percent of the votes. Those figures, however, include only a portion of the absentee ballots. Also, a recount request is likely.

Alaskans elected a new governor

last week, as Democrat Steve Cowper grabbed 47.1 percent of the votes, compared to Republican Arliss Sturgulewski's 42.8 percent.

The Democratic team of Cowper and incumbent Lt. Gov. Steve McAlpine did not carry the Anchorage vote, but won over the Sturgulewski-

Terry Miller team in most other areas of the state.

Cowper said he felt the Bush vote was very important to his victory.

"It's clear rural Alaska was the major factor in the campaign as far as I was concerned," he said.

The governor-elect also said his ad-

ministration will work hard for rural Alaska.

"I'm committed to preserving the lifestyles and cultural traditions of rural Alaskans," he said.

Winning re-election was Republican U.S. Sen. Frank Murkowski, who retained his seat in the U.S. Senate by pulling in 54 percent of the vote, compared to his Democratic challenger, Glenn Olds, who got 44.1 percent of the vote.

Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young easily won over Democratic challenger Pegge Begich with 56.5 percent of the vote, compared to

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Sheffield: Next 4 years to be tough

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Begich's 41.1 percent.

Both Young and Murkowski downplayed the fact that both the U.S. House and Senate are now controlled by Democrats.

"I'm extremely pleased that the people of Alaska have endorsed my efforts on their behalf in the U.S. Senate. The election results were gratifying in that people from all regions of Alaska were supportive of my first six years and endorsed my agenda for the next six years," Murkowski said.

"As a member of the Senate majority during the past six years I worked well with the Democratic minority. I don't feel Sen. Stevens or I will have any difficulty in dealing with the new Democratic majority."

Young said he was gratified by the support for him by Alaskans and was eager to get back to work on important issues affecting Alaska Natives, such as 1991 and the decision on whether to allow oil exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Alaska's lone congressman also said he is not concerned about the new Democratic majority in the Senate and that good Democrats currently hold key positions in Congress.

Gov. Bill Sheffield, who will soon step down from his post, said he was happy with the outcome of the governor's race and that he is confident the Bush will be well served by Cowper.

"I'm sure people in rural areas — in my opinion — will be protected with their subsistence way of life under the new governor," he said. "I'm glad that Steve Cowper won."

At the same time, he sounded a note of caution for the new administration.

"The next four years are going to be some tough years as we cut the budget and try to live within our income," he said.

Cowper Friday announced the nine members of the Transition Steering Committee who will oversee his transition to the governor's office over the next several months.

The committee will be headed by former state Rep. Hugh Malone of Kenai. Other members include Patty Kastelic of Fairbanks; Tony Smith, Bill Sykes and Mike Bradner of Anchorage; Nadine Winters and Chuck Taylor of Juneau; Rocky Gutierrez of Sitka; and Glenn Fredericks of Sleetmute. Lt. Gov. Stephen McAlpine will serve as an ex officio member of the panel.

Also decided in the General Election were three ballot measures and a bonding proposition.

Ballot Proposition A, which asked voters whether they wanted to authorize the Alaska Housing Finance Corp. to issue \$600 million in revenue bonds to finance mortgages for veterans won approval with 65.5 percent of the voters approving it.

The total vote with 99.5 percent of the precincts in was 101,357 for the proposition and 53,327 — 34.4 percent of the voters — against it.

Ballot Measure No. 3, which showed support for an annuity program for the Longevity Bonus Program, was favored by the voters, with 59.8 percent voting for it.

The measure received 88,862 votes for it, compared to 59,600 votes

against it or 40.1 percent of the vote.

The annuity option would allow people under 65 on Jan. 1 to elect to deposit all or part of their Permanent Fund dividend checks in a state account. When they reach 65, they would then receive annuity payments from their accounts supplemented by the state to reach \$250 a month.

Voters rejected Ballot Measure No. 2, which would allow the Legislature to annul by resolution regulations made by the governor and his staff. It would have had the effect of expan-

ding the power of the Legislature.

Voting against the measure were 85,377 voters — 59.3 percent. Voting in favor of it were 58,522 — 40.6 percent of the voters.

Ballot Measure No. 1, which would retain a constitutional limit on appropriations, limiting how much the Legislature and the governor are allowed to spend, won approval with 70.6 percent of the voters favoring it.

The total vote for it was 106,858. Voting against it were 44,450 voters — 29.3 percent.