

Sackett Squeaks In By One Vote

John Sackett is very happy about one voter somewhere who cast a ballot for him.

John, 21-year-old Huslia man, won the Republican nomination for state house in District 15 by one vote.

He polled 148 to his closest competitor's 147.

Gordon Frye of Clear looked an easy victor, for a while, over Sackett and two others running for the house as Republicans in the recent primary election.

Until the absentee ballots

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were counted, Sackett trailed Frye by almost 50 votes, a considerable margin in the sparsely populated "wilderness district."

The absentees spelled out a different story.

Two other Republicans running for the House, Al Ketzler in Nenana and Cy Hetherington of Manley Hot Springs, fell far behind Sackett and Frye.

John will face incumbent Rep. Norb Skinner, Democrat, in the November general election. Sackett, a young Native man, is this year president of the Tanana Chiefs Conference and also a student at the University of Alaska. He makes his home at Huslia.

Absentees also widened the close margin between Sen. Grant Pearson (D-Nenana), and challenger David Harrison of Dillingham in the race for one seat in Senate District H. Pearson's old territory was expanded under reapportionment to include the Dillingham-Bristol Bay fishing areas.

Outcome of the close race was waited for days. Pearson did better than many expected in his new territory, where some said he was not well known.

The veteran legislator will now face Jay Hammon of the Dillingham-Naknek area in the November general election.