

# Primary election results narrow field for Nov.

by David Totten and Mike Hinman  
*TundraTIMES staff*

In a quiet night at election central at the Egan Center in downtown Anchorage, people milled about, talking with the candidates, both winners and losers.

There was a low voter turnout for the open-ticket primary, with only 27.9 percent of the registered voters going to the polls.

Lincoln received less than a third of the vote in the primary election for the U. S. House of Representatives. Since she was unopposed, Lincoln will appear as the Democratic candidate on the November ballot.

Lincoln is one of three Native Americans running for Congress around the country this year. If she wins in the general election, she will be the first Native American woman ever to be elected to Congress.

Lincoln was dissatisfied with her showing. She said she would not be happy without 51 percent of the vote because that is the only way she can win. Lincoln needed a good showing in the primary, even though there were no other Democrats running, to help raise money for the Fall election.

"We had one TV spot," said Lincoln. "We had about \$150,000, as opposed to, I don't know what it was, a trillion? A zillion, that my opponent had?"

Incumbent Don Young handily won the Republican nomination with 58 per-

cent of the vote, with 392 of 463 precincts reporting. Young was challenged by Jim Dore and Sybill Skelton for the nomination, but neither of them gained more than two percent.

Also winning nominations were Green Party candidate John Grames and William Nemec of the Alaska Independent Party.

Willow Republican and former Iditarod musher Beverly Masek staved off a challenge from within her party in the Aug. 27 primary election. The incumbent representative from district 28 defeated Doyle Holmes to win the Republican nomination.

Masek won the nomination by a three to one margin, capturing 59.2 percent of the vote while Holmes gathered 19.6 percent.

"It was real positive all along," said Masek. "But I didn't know these numbers were going to be that high."

She plans to focus on roads, education and fishing in her upcoming campaign. She wants to introduce a legislative version of the fish initiative that was recently struck down in the Alaska Supreme Court.

"I hope that throughout the state there will be more people elected who will be looking fairly at this fishing industry and looking at personal use. Those who want to take fish home to put in their freezers and, of course, you have the sports fishing and the commercial fishing. We all have to work together to resolve this issue."

Masek will face Democrat Pam Sandvik

and the AIP candidate Donald Loesche in the November general election. Sandvik received 18.5 percent and Loesche garnered 2.7 percent of the vote.

Other election results showed incumbent Ted Stevens defeating challenger Dave Cuddy, 57.5 percent to 9.2 percent. Stevens will face Democrat Theresa Obermeyer and Green Party candidate Jed Whittaker on the November ballot.

Obermeyer bested a field of six other candidates trying to challenge Stevens and his 28-year lock on the office of Senator. She won despite only getting just over three percent of the vote.

A close race resulted from the battle of 18-year veteran Sen. Fred Zharoff losing, just barely, to fellow Democrat and 12-year Rep. Jerry Mackie for Senate District C. The lead, only 700 votes, is unofficial until absentee ballots are counted.

Some of the uniqueness of campaigning in Alaska was apparent for House District 36, a sprawling, convoluted district that stretches from Arctic Village and the south along the Alaska-Canada border nearly to Cordova, back around to Tyonek and almost to Bethel. The area excludes the metropolitan areas of Fairbanks and Anchorage, and also Valdez and the Mat-Su Valley.

The district is larger than all the states in the U.S. except Texas and Alaska.

Travel and meeting the voters face to face becomes difficult in the best of circumstances, but is expensive.

"I couldn't (meet people face to face),

it was too expensive," said Republican candidate Carl Morgan Jr.

Morgan concentrated his efforts on mail and "a lot of leaflets." His efforts paid off, beating John Billings Sr. for the privilege of facing Irene Nicholia in November.

Another of the unique properties of campaigning in Alaska is the different cultures.

In House District 36, there are Yupik, Athapaskan, Doyon and non-Native.

"Each one has their own individual needs," said Morgan. "Let's see what we all have in common."

The continuing debate over subsistence and who controls the management of fish and game in Alaska, will still be a challenge for the upcoming legislature.

"This two-party system is not working," said Morgan. "One of all 50 states has a subsistence life-style. All the rest have lost it. That is something to think about."