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Headlee victory thrills hometown fans

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

An upbeat throng that included many Farmington area residents made Tuesday at Southfield's Michigan Inn an electric, ecstatic evening for Republican gubernatorial victor Richard Headlee of Farmington Hills.

In a race too close to call until Wednesday morning, it was clear early on that the insurance company president would carry his hometown.

Headlee drew 37.8 percent of the vote in Farmington Hills, followed by L. Brooks Patterson with 30.6 percent and James Brickley with 29.4 percent.

In Farmington, however, a single vote gave Brickley the edge over Headlee, 624-623. Patterson pulled in third with 505 votes.

On hand to celebrate and bestow congratulations at the victory party were former Governor George Romney and his wife, Lenore, and a host of Headlee's hometown supporters that included several Farmington Hills City Council members.

Television sets propped high in every corner entertained guests who sipped free fruit punch and nibbled on slices of a huge, green Michigan-shaped cake while awaiting final word.

It was 1 a.m. before the tape-recorded music was toned down and the victorious Headlee addressed the crowd with wife Mary at his side, with a quasi-victory speech.

"This is what you call a typical Headlee low-budget band."

"You'll see a lot of it the next four years," said a smiling Headlee to his amused audience.

In sharing partial election results

with his supporters, Headlee highlighted the fetters from "Grand Traverse — home of Traverse City, where it was 63 percent for Headlee."

The victory proved hard work, perseverance and prayer pay off, he said. "These are tough times in Michigan, but we have some great things going for us, most especially our strong spirit," he added.

In a closing poem, Headlee quoted, "... since I have no gold to give, I ask God in my daily prayers, make me worthy of my friends."

FARMINGTON HILLS council members delighted with the night's outcome included former mayors Joann Soronen and Donn Wolf, and Charlie Williams.

"Headlee has hard economic experience. If anyone can straighten out Lansing, Headlee can do it," Williams said.

"He'll be going in not as part of the system, but with the idea that he's going to do the job in one term. And he's giving up a very well-paid job to do it."

Williams, who is Headlee's accountant, praised him as "the most moral man I know."

Soronen looked relieved that the hours of hard campaigning had paid off.

"We did a lot of work," she said. "A lot of the council members were working for Headlee. We couldn't be happier."

Headlee's victory pleased Rusty

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RANDY BORST/staff photographer

Big smiles and a thumbs-up salute tell the tale Tuesday night as Richard Headlee and his wife, Mary, address the throng at his Michigan Inn victory party.

Local voters follow trend

Richard Headlee, who'll be the Republican candidate for governor next November, carried his home city of Farmington Hills but lost by a single vote to L. Gov. James Brickley in neighboring Farmington.

Local voters largely followed statewide trends in Tuesday's election aside from exceptions such as the comfortable margin Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Prosecutor and unsuccessful Republican gubernatorial candidate, received in his home county.

Farmington Hills voters gave Headlee 2,694 votes — which is 491 more than Patterson received and 575 more than Brickley got. In the city of Farmington, however, Brickley edged Headlee by one vote — 624 to Headlee's 623. The Redford fight for the governor's seat has been hotly contested in the city with councilmen dividing loyalties between Headlee and Brickley.

Patterson received 505 votes in Farmington and 2,115 in the Hills. He finished first in Oakland County with 39,363 votes compared to Headlee's second-place tally of 30,566.

Democrat James Blanchard, former U.S. congressman from Pleasanton Ridge, collected three times more votes than his closest rival in balloting in Farmington and Farmington Hills.

Blanchard, who won by a large margin overall, received 395 votes in Farmington and 2,148 votes in the Hills. Zolton Ferency came in second in Farmington Hills with 617 votes while William Fitzgerald took second in Farmington with 151 votes.

DEMOCRATS in the state Senate's 15th District chose Jack Faxon to run

against John Anderson, the Republican nominee. Faxon was top vote-getter in both Farmington and Farmington Hills, receiving 332 and 1,895 votes, respectively. His closest rival in a field of six candidates was state Sen. Dana Wilson, who picked up 230 votes in Farmington and 1,931 in the Hills.

Alan Pezer came in third in both cities. Philip Marcuse came in fifth in Farmington Hills and sixth in Farmington. Dan Reedy placed fourth in Farmington and last in Farmington Hills voting. Jacki Kay Work placed fourth in Farmington Hills and fifth in Farmington.

Wilson and Faxon entered the race when their old districts were re-drawn. Faxon, of Detroit, and Wilson, of Hazel Park, both served as state senators.

Republicans in the state Senate's 15th District picked John Anderson in the primary by almost a 2-1 margin locally and districtwide. Anderson picked up 5,767 votes with flamboyant former Southfield Judge S. James Clarkson coming closest to him with 2,969 votes.

David Pickering had the second highest total in Farmington and Farmington Hills. Overall, though, he finished third with 2,780 votes in the district-wide tally.

Richard Corey finished fourth overall and in both cities while Markus Simon finished last in both cities as well as the district. Clarkson finished fourth in Farmington Hills with 680 votes.

UNOPPOSED candidates included

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Dana Wilson defeated

It's Faxon vs. Anderson in Senate race

By M.B. Dillon Ward
staff writer

Not long after the polls closed, Republican 15th District state Senate nominee John Anderson donned a victory smile and chatted with eager voters awaiting election returns at Farmington Hills City Hall Tuesday night.

Anderson's grin grew wider when — with only two precincts recorded — the 31-year-old attorney was declared the unofficial winner by Donna Sklar, who manned the blackboard. It was an indication of the way things were to go all evening for the Republican who will face Democrat Jack Faxon in November.

When all the votes were in, Anderson had galloped away with 44.6 percent of the vote in Farmington Hills.

Runner-up David Pickering took 21.5 percent. Anderson also carried Farmington and won overwhelmingly in the rest of the district.

Anderson, who is to be married Saturday to Janice Applegate of Farmington Hills, attributed the resounding victory to hard work.

"I think we made a good effort in the primary, and we remained optimistic throughout the campaign," he said.

"It was a little discouraged when I heard that (Democratic incumbent state Sen. Dana) Wilson had entered the race. Wilson and I were competing for some of the same support."

WILSON CAME up nearly 8,000 votes short behind victorious fellow Democratic incumbent Jack Faxon. Faxon was a victim of redistricting

and chose to move from Detroit to run in the 15th District.

Total district results show Faxon drew 16,295 votes to Wilson's 8,412. Alan Pezer's 4,328, Dan Reedy's 802, Philip Marcuse's 602 and Jacki Kay Work's 583.

In Farmington Hills, Faxon carried a whopping 50.5 percent of the voters. Wilson picked up 27.5 percent. The winning margin in Farmington was tighter for Faxon, who collected 322 votes to Wilson's 230.

When the last Farmington Hills vote was counted, a wish Anderson expressed early Tuesday evening was granted.

"My hope is that Faxon wins on the Democratic side," he had said. "He represents many of the things that need changing. There are strong

philosophical differences between Faxon and myself, and I think we can run a good campaign against him.

ANDERSON ACKNOWLEDGES it won't be easy for a Republican to win in the 15th District even though voter polls from past elections before redistricting show a slight Republican edge. "Polls are all well and good, but what's really important is how people feel. I think I'm on the side of the people as far as the important issues of business development, jobs and the cutting of state spending are concerned," said Anderson.

A buoyant Faxon was offering thanks to campaign workers amidst a din at Southfield's Majestic Market

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MINDY SAUNDERS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Doug Ross and his wife, Karol, talk to supporters at the VFW hall in Southfield late Tuesday after it became apparent Levin was winning the Democratic congressional primary race.

Levin onslaught fells Doug Ross

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Sander Levin won the Democratic nomination by a landslide in the hotly contested 17th Congressional District race.

The 50-year-old Southfield attorney and two-time Democratic candidate for governor easily outpolled state Sen. Doug Ross of Southfield in what was billed as a neck-and-neck runoff.

With 92 percent of the Wayne County returns in Wednesday morning, Levin led Ross, his closest competitor, 12,593 to 5,891 in the district which covers Southfield, Lathrup Village, Redford Township and other communities in Wayne and Oakland counties. The early results showed Levin capturing 44 percent of the 20,287 district votes and Ross 26 percent. In Oakland County, where Ross expected heavy support, he was outdistanced by Levin 17,332 to 11,583. Levin garnered 12,593 Wayne County votes to Ross's 5,891.

LEVIN WILL face Detroit attorney Gerald Rosen in the November election. Rosen, 30, defeated Southfield management consultant Morris Goldberg 15,152 to 5,135, earning 75 percent of the vote in the Republican primary.

Levin predicted he would easily defeat Rosen in the general election because of the 60 percent Democratic makeup of the district.

The 17th District post was the only open seat in Michigan's 18-member congressional delegation. Incumbent Rep. William Brodhead, D-Detroit, had announced this summer he would not seek re-election.

Detroit Councilwoman Maryann Mahaffey finished third in the Democratic 17th District primary with a 3,742 tally, 14 percent of the total vote.

Detroit accountant Patrick O'Hara was fourth-place finisher with 2,763 votes. Mercy College president Agnes Mary Mansour followed with 2,240 votes. Detroit secretary Jeanne Anne Hathaway received 844 votes.

Levin led the field in Southfield with 44.77 percent of the vote and in Redford Township with 36 percent. Ross, however, outpaced Levin 153-92 in Lathrup Village. Ross captured 40.86 percent of the Southfield vote and 29 percent of the Lathrup Village tally.

Rosen trounced Goldberg in Southfield, taking 74.47 percent of the Republican vote. Rosen outpolled Goldberg 355 to 78 in Lathrup Village and captured 76.5 of the votes in Redford.

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