

Knollenberg from page 1A



STEPHEN CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Checking returns: Joe Knollenberg checks early election results with supporters at his Farmington Hills party headquarters.

while slightly more than 8,000 voted for Briggs.

But whoever the people voted for, the turnout was high.

"This is the biggest I've seen in the nearly 12 years I've been here," said Finneren. At one point voters waited up to 90 minutes to cast their ballots.

At Birmingham Pierce Elementary School, the turnout was also high, said election worker Madeline Westbale.

Knollenberg kept voters waiting more than two and a half hours after the polls closed before making an appearance. And he was

still not willing at that time to claim victory.

Briggs said he was not surprised with the heavy voter turnout.

"It's been a hectic night," said Briggs as he and supporters clustered around TV sets at the Glens of Bloomfield Apartments in Bloomfield Township.

"I'm excited for president Clinton. His support in Oakland County did help us," Briggs said.

Both candidates had campaigned hard, knocking on thousands of doors, sending out literature and meeting with voters.

Briggs was generally seen as the underdog in the heavily Republican area that was dominated by Bloomfield for more than three decades. He challenged Broomfield two years ago, and was soundly defeated.

But with the restructuring of the district to include more Democratic voting areas in Southfield and Livonia, Briggs felt he had a good chance of winning this year.

Despite the changes, the dis-

trict held sound to its conservative Republican roots, and Knollenberg offered the continuation of the Broomfield tradition, which voters welcomed.

Briggs, of Birmingham, is the great grandson of Walter O. Briggs, who owned Briggs Stadium, which became Tiger Stadium. Knollenberg was a longtime supporter and adviser of Broomfield.

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