



Aldo Vagozzoli greets supporters at his election night victory party.

BILL BRESLER | OBSERVER

**ALDO**

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weren't about to fall for negative comments through phone calls or mailings.

"I had the advantage that many people knew me," he said Wednesday.

"We were really organized this time," he said at his campaign party at Carvers restaurant in Farmington Hills. He lost his bid two years ago for state representative to incumbent Andrew Raczkowski by about 500 votes.

During his door-to-door campaign in the two cities, he said he kept track of those who said they would consider voting for him, and his campaign workers focused their effort Tuesday, making sure those folks got to the polls.

Deborah Goldberg, finance director for his campaign, said the group had a list of 11,000 supporters where he was successful. "We probably had 200 people at the office," she said.

Though Vagozzoli agreed he faces an uphill battle with the Republicans controlling the House, he said there are several Republicans who are moderate.

ate and can hopefully work with the Democrats.

A \$1 billion state budget deficit will not make things easy, the Democrat confided.

"Hopefully in the next four years we'll balance the budget," he said.

Vagozzoli said he would like to be on the highway committee and push to get a sound barrier for residents living along I-275.

He said he would work to have Oakland County get back more money in state shared revenues.

Other issues he said he will focus on are schools and nursing home care.

Local Republicans say, however, that Vagozzoli won't be able to do much at all, because of his minority position.

Farmington Area Republican Club vice-chair Christopher Cummins said Wednesday that he didn't expect much success from Vagozzoli in State Senator-elect Gilda Jacobs, also a Democrat.

"Aldo's in the minority right now," Cummins said. "The GOP majority is 14 votes in the state house. He's not going to bring any money back here."

Not surprisingly, Cummins believes the area will be worse off than during the past six years, with Republican control of the local delegation. But he said his opinion isn't just based on partisan politics, but also a measure of simple logic.

"Before you had people in the majority who were supposed to work for us to bring money back," he said. "There's nothing for him to do."

The 77-year-old Vagozzoli seems undaunted by the prospect of facing down the majority. He said he will be quite busy before heading to Lansing, arranging regular meetings with the public and the press.

"I plan to have a legislative neighborhood watch," he said, adding that he'll host regular coffee forums.

Vagozzoli also expects to rent an apartment in Farmington and spend three days a week there after being sworn in.

And, like his springtime walk from Farmington to Lansing to prove his age wasn't an issue, he said he would like to form a walk three days a week for legislators.

- Staff writer Joni Hubert also contributed to this story.

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**COMMENTS**

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She likes letting people vote a straight party ticket and doesn't want to confuse "old-timers" who may choose that.

Means said this year's campaign ads made her sick.

"Nobody can be that good or that bad."

Means, a reporter publishing in the Farmington Observer, how candidates voted on different issues, even if it requires putting out a special edition. Having all the information in one place would be helpful. It's too labor-intensive to be pulling all that information up from the Internet, she said.

Carol Eve Hyska, a precinct chair at the Farmington Training Center, said more than 50 percent of voters showed up by 5:50 p.m.

"We're thrilled," Hyska said. "It's wonderful. It feels good for voters and us. There was a line at 7 a.m. until 7:45 a.m."

There was no slacking off during the day despite the rains which started in the afternoon, she said.

Ky Glover wouldn't say how he voted but he touted publics.org the nonprofit Web site run by his friends, Vince Keenan and Jacob Lipman.

"It gives all the candidate information and maps," Glover said. "The Web site helped out by giving the facts and links to party-affiliated Web sites.

As a veteran who served in the infantry in the Marine Corps, Glover said he likes to vote.

Kathy Zielinski's not a state worker but she voted yes on the proposal to amend the state constitution to grant state classified employees the constitutional right to collective bargaining with binding arbitration.

She also voted for Dick Posthumus. "I'm against abortion," Zielinski said.

**FARMINGTON HILLS**

At Precinct 13 at the Costick Center in Farmington Hills there were plenty of polling

booths open around 3 p.m. Election Day.

Preston Brown of Farmington Hills said he was on his way to his precinct, but that he already had his mail made up now he would vote.

He said he voted Democratic most of the time and definitely was choosing Jennifer Granholm for Michigan's next governor.

"I don't like the divisiveness of (Republican candidate) Dick Posthumus," he said.

On the 37th State House race: "I like (Democrat candidate) Aldo Vagozzoli, I think he's done a good job as mayor."

He also said he voted against Proposal 4, to earmark tobacco settlement money for smoking prevention programs and health care, rather than supporting state college scholarships.

"I think scholarships should be given to those who show their worthiness," he said.

A 32-year-old Farmington Hills woman, who declined to give her name for fear her family might dislike her comments, said voting to her is choosing the lesser of two evils nowadays.

She said supporting the arts tax of Proposal K was important to her. Granholm was her pick for governor as she will likely do more for women.

"I feel safer with her," she said.

The woman said she chose Vagozzoli for state representative.

She noted the negative campaign ads almost kept her away from the polls.

"It leaves a bad taste in my mouth," she said.

Farmington Hills resident George Smith said he is a Republican, but chose Granholm.

"I've been a fan of hers since



In Precinct 14 at Alameda Elementary Stacy Kelly votes while keeping an eye on 5-year-old son Nicholas.

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the beginning," he said, adding the rest of his ticket choices were Republican.

He declined to say how he voted on the proposals.

Betty Martin, who voted by absentee ballot, said she voted mostly Democratic.

She voted for Annette Raczkowski for 47th District Court judge because her brother-in-law, state Rep. Andrew Raczkowski, is a member of her and her husband's American Legion Post.

Martin said the negative campaign ads also turned her off.

"It was too much. Too much, too often," she said. "If they took all that money spent on these ads, look what they could do."

Martin didn't think people were swayed by the negative ads. She said candidates should stick to the issues.

She noted she also voted against Proposal K, the arts tax for Oakland and Wayne Counties.

"I don't want my taxes going up," she said.

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