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ELECTIONS '98

Kinnaird, Lee Hang On to Keep State Senate Seats

The incumbent Democrats from Orange County beat Republican challengers P.H. Craig and Teena Little.

By KIMBERLY GRABNER, SCOTT HICKS AND COURTNEY HATHAWAY
Staff Writers

Sens. Ellie Kinnaird and Howard Lee, D-Orange, overcame a tight race Tuesday night to again claim their seats in the General Assembly. The unofficial results for N.C. 16th District State Senate Seats are

Kinnaird, 46,600 votes, Lee, 46,011 votes, Teena Little, 41,354 votes and P.H. Craig, 37,038 votes.

"I'm elated and delighted to be going back," Lee said. "We had a reasonably comfortable win; it just took a while to get there."

"I'm glad to go back into the legislature to work on behalf of education."

Lee said the Democrats regained control of the General Assembly. "The Democrats may gain as many as five seats in the Senate, which will give us a comfortable breathing margin," he said.

"We're in for a favorable year of

legislation."

Dick Edwards, dean of the UNC School of Social Work, said he was confident of Lee's character and abilities.

"Howard Lee is a friend of mine, an alumnus in the school of social work and a strong friend of the university," he said.

"I think he is a strong advocate for people of his district, and the University's just one component of his district."

Kenny Mann Sr., night manager at the Aqueduct where Lee gave his victory speech, said he was pleased with the results.

"He's done just as much if not more than when he was mayor," he said.

Prior to the unofficial results, Kinnaird said she was optimistic.

"We've got a happy crowd," she said. "We've got a house full of reporters and we're doing well."

Allen Spalt, Carrboro Alderman, spoke highly of Kinnaird.

"She goes and works like crazy to represent her entire district - Democrats and Republicans, her entire district," he said.

Carole Lawler, Lee's campaign

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N.C. Senate, District 16
96.4 percent precincts reporting

			
P.H. Craig, R 37,075 votes 21.68 percent	Eleanor Kinnaird, D 46,600 votes 27.25 percent	Howard Lee, D 45,995 votes 26.89 percent	Teena Little, R 41,354 votes 24.18 percent

Edwards Edges Faircloth

Price Defeats Roberg, Avoids Repeat of 1994

Rep. David Price, D-N.C., defeated Republican challenger Tom Roberg in a hard-fought and close midterm race.

By CATE DODY, KATIE HUNTER AND WARREN WILSON
Staff Writers

RALEIGH - Supporters of David Price sang 'hallelujah' along with the Brothers for Christ gospel choir Tuesday as area voters sent the Democratic incumbent back to Washington for his sixth, and second consecutive, term.

"It's a great night for Democrats, it's a great night for North Carolina, and it's a great night for the country we all love," Price said to the jubilant, beer-drinking supporters.

Price, who unofficially captured 57 percent of the vote, defeated Republican challenger and Wake County businessman Tom Roberg, who unofficially drew support from 42 percent of the voters, and Libertarian Gary Goodson, who netted the rest.

"The people of the 4th District have spoken, and they will get what they have spoken for, which is more of what they have gotten for the last 10 or 12 years," Roberg said to a subdued crowd at the Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh.

The 4th District was redrawn this year to include nearly all of Chatham, Durham, Orange and Person counties.

Dick Ellis, campaign spokesman for Roberg, said he was disappointed with the new district boundaries.

"It's no question that they were drawn to stack the deck for the other guys," Ellis said. But the win had little to do with boundary lines, said Price, a former political science professor at Duke University.

"I credit the win to (people's) desire for a quality education for their children, their desire to make sure Social Security is there for future generations, their desire to keep our part of North Carolina the best place to live and work and do business in the country," he said in response to a question about the effects of redistricting.

But the redistricting controversy did little to dampen the signs of celebration that manifested themselves in Price's headquarters at the North Raleigh Hilton.

"I'm elated," said Calvin Cunningham, Orange County campaign coordinator for Price and a UNC School of Law student, as the crowd passed around cigars.

"The victory shows that North Carolina voters, and young voters in particular came out," Cunningham said.

But Goodson, like Roberg, said he believed little would change with Price's re-election, but that he was optimistic about the future of the Libertarian Party.

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Today's Weather
Mostly cloudy; Mid 50s.
Thursday: Partly cloudy; Mid 50s.



John Edwards thanks his wife, Elizabeth, and his daughters, Emma Claire (left) and Kate, for all of their support during his victory speech Tuesday night.

John Edwards pushed Sen. Lauch Faircloth out of the Senate in one of the closest races of the election season.

By MARY CAMERON, ANNE FAWCETT, HOLLY NEAL AND COURTNEY WEILL
Staff Writers

RALEIGH - All eyes were glued to screens showing not television updates, but Internet results, when CNN declared Democrat John Edwards the winner of a neck-and-neck race against incumbent Sen. Lauch Faircloth, R-N.C.

At the end of the night, Edwards edged out the first-term incumbent and opponent by garnering 985,398 votes to Faircloth's 905,304 in unofficial results. A cheer arose from Edwards' supporters as they jostled bottles of Bud Light into the air, christening the birth of a new generation in North Carolina politics at the North Raleigh Hilton.

"The message is going to Washington that we're tired of sitting in the gutter," said Gene Scarborough, 52, president of Scarborough Financial Service in Rocky Mount.

"As a life insurance agent who, as a rule, despises the business that John Edwards does, I do like his style."

"I think (the race) is representative of how divided this country really is. We need to get ourselves talking about things we can agree on. There's more important things to do than bicker for the rest of our lives," Scarborough said.

Edwards, 45, said in his victory speech that his win was a vote for hopes instead of fears, and he said he would take responsibility for upholding the

public's trust in him.

"I feel an enormous responsibility ... to give a voice and be a voice for every North Carolinian," he said.

"We will fight in the floor of the U.S. Senate for things that matter: reforming public schools, reforming health care, protecting the environment, and preserving Medicare and Social Security for our senior citizens."

Edwards' supporters saw the defeat of Faircloth's campaign, which featured negative advertising, as the end of an era that has tied the state to conservatives like sitting Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C.

"This is the turning of the tide on Helms," said Gail Perry, 47, a consultant from Raleigh.

"It's the beginning of the end for the Helms era. North Carolina is finally ready to get rid of meanness in politics and start talking about positive issues related to the future."

Faircloth supporters across town at the Brownstone Inn also recognized the connection between their candidate and Helms as the two Republicans shared the stage for Faircloth's concession speech.

"I'm disappointed," said Joseph Harrison, a retiree from Wake Forest. "I think he's next to Jesse Helms and I support Jesse wholeheartedly. Faircloth and Helms were two of a kind in Washington."

Analysts said Faircloth never managed to make it out of Helms' shadow during his term in office. They considered him one of the most vulnerable Republican incumbents in the country.

Conversely, Edwards has been the Democrats' most promising challenger

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U.S. Senate
97.55 percent precincts reporting

	
John Edwards, D 985,398 votes 51.16 percent	Lauch Faircloth, R 905,304 votes 47.00 percent
	
Barbara Howe, L 35,375 votes 1.84 percent	



Lauch Faircloth, joined by family and friends, addresses his supporters Tuesday evening at the Brownstone Hotel in Raleigh.

Congress Still in Hands of GOP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON - Republicans struggled to strengthen their control of Congress on Tuesday in midterm elections held in the shadow of impeachment proceedings against the president.

The GOP held control of the Senate even as Democrats toppled two Republican incumbents. Democrats also ousted a pair of Southern governors. GOP Gov. George W. Bush won a

Texas-sized re-election while his brother Jeb added the Florida statehouse to the Republican column.

Democrats countered in South Carolina, where Jim Hodges toppled first-term Gov. David Beasley, ironically the chairman of the Republican Governors' Association. Alabama's Republican Gov. Fob James was defeated as well.

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U.S. House
District 4
96.4 percent precincts reporting

	
David Price, D 124,131 votes 57.03 percent	Tom Roberg, R 91,375 votes 41.98 percent
	
Gary Goodson, L 2,156 votes 0.99 percent	

The people of North Carolina voted their hopes instead of their fears.

John Edwards