



**Bernard Sanders**



**Gordon Paquette**

# In Stunning Upset, Sanders Is Apparent Victor Over Paquette

By **DEBBIE BOOKCHIN**

**BURLINGTON** — In an election upset which sent shock waves through Vermont Tuesday night, political radical Bernard Sanders emerged the apparent winner — by 12 votes — as Burlington's mayor.

There will be a recount. The results, if they hold up, mean that Sanders has unseated five-term incumbent Mayor Gordon Paquette. Late Tuesday night a shaken Paquette said he would ask for the recount.

The total in the six wards of Vermont's largest city on Tuesday night said Sanders had beaten Paquette, 4,035-4,023.

Sanders, who has been a familiar face in liberal-to-left-wing state-wide politics for a dozen years, rode to victory on a crest of voter dissatisfaction with City Hall and city projects. This feeling of discontent shot down the mayor, a 65-cent tax hike, and two Democratic aldermanic candidates.

Sanders, a former Liberty Union candidate, who ran unsuccessfully for governor and the U. S. Senate in the early 70s, campaigned vigorously on a platform of turning City Hall away from what he called "business interests" and toward the priorities of people with low income or middle incomes.

Both Sanders and Paquette were uneasy about the 12-vote margin, and Paquette called for a recount.

In addition, lawyers for Sanders charged that there may have been vote-counting irregularities.

Mayor Paquette, tense, appeared in City Hall about 10:30 p.m. when official returns for all but one ward had been counted.

"All indications are that there are about 12 votes separating Mr. Sanders and me," Paquette said. He was visibly upset.

The mayor said he would call for a recount, and added: "Until that recount, I'm not making any statements."

The mayor has been in public office continually for 23 years here. He served

13 years on the Board of Aldermen and then 10 years as mayor.

Paquette, a product of Burlington's Democratic-dominated ward politics, was relying on his strength as an incumbent and support from conservative Democrats and Republicans to carry him to a sixth term.

There were 140 other minor candidates in the race, who helped split the Paquette-Sanders vote.

Mayor Paquette spent much of the rest of the evening with city officials and friends at Nector's, a local restaurant.

Sanders appeared at City Hall about a half-hour later, when the official returns for Ward 3 still had not been received. Looking nervous and distracted, he said: "I want to thank the thousands of people who voted and the hundreds of people who worked day and night on my campaign."

Sanders called his apparent win "a victory for the low-income and the working people of the city." He promised what he termed major and fundamental changes in the direction of Burlington will take.

Sanders conceded that his was a thin victory. He acknowledged a recount was virtually a certainty.

But, he added, his voice trembling and rising as it has done so many times during the campaign: "We're going to fight (See Page 8: Burlington)"

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# Burlington

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like hell to preserve this victory and nobody is going to take it away from us."

The final tally of the 9,437 votes in Burlington City gave Paquette with 4,023 and Sanders with 4,035.

Whoever is ultimately chosen mayor will take office in about a month.

Figures in all six wards indicated Sanders had widespread support. His strongest showing came, as expected, from inner-city Wards 2 and 3, where the votes went as follows: Ward 2 — Sanders 616, Paquette 358; Ward 3 — Sanders 639, Paquette 458.

But Sanders also ran well in Ward 1, the "Hill Section" ward, where he outdistanced Paquette by two votes 516-514.

In Ward 6 it was Sanders 609, Paquette 686; Ward 5, Sanders 610, Paquette 637, and Ward 4 (which encompasses the city's new North End and is traditionally a Paquette stronghold) Sanders 1,045, Paquette 1,370.

Hostility between Sanders and Paquette goes back even before Paquette announced his candidacy, when the mayor refused to respond to a criticism by Sanders. Sanders, who built a constituency out of a loose coalition of neighborhood groups, working people, the elderly, students, and labor unions, tore into Paquette throughout the campaign for refusal to allow a vote on the controversial Southern Interstate con-

necter, his lack of support for a Fair Housing Commission proposal, and for placing the tax burden on low-income and middle-income residents "instead of businesses where it belongs."

The average citizen, rather than what he called "city power brokers" should determine the future of Burlington, Sanders would say during the campaign.

A trio of lawyers working on the Sanders campaign came to City Hall late Tuesday evening to oversee storage of the vote tabulations overnight. They were headed by Jane Watson-Kilpatrick said it appeared Paquette may have been inside the polling places in two wards. She said there was concern that absentee ballots in Ward 5 had been

tallied before voting was completed for the day. She added she and her companions would be looking into the matter. Another lawyer appearing for Sanders was John Franco, a friend of Liberty Union days years ago.

If Sanders' election holds up, it will be considered a stunning political upset for the former Liberty Union candidate who used to campaign on his philosophy of Marxism.

It will also give Sanders wide appointment power in Burlington's city government, which is a "strong mayor" form of government which has meant that Paquette virtually ran city government singlehandedly.