



AP Laserphoto

Socialist Bernard Sanders greets supporters Tuesday night after winning a third term as mayor of Burlington, Vt.

Workers, elderly credited in socialist mayor's 3rd win

BURLINGTON, Vt. (UPI) — Bernard Sanders, the nation's only socialist mayor and leader of Vermont's largest and wealthiest city, says he owes his easy re-election to blue-collar workers, the elderly and the poor.

Preliminary vote totals Tuesday showed Sanders, 43, with 55.2 percent of 9,827 votes cast in the seven-way contest, city officials said. Voter turnout was light, due to a late winter storm that dumped a foot of snow on the city.

Sanders, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native who was first elected mayor in 1981, was elected for a third term.

Democrat Brian Burns, 45, Sanders' closest competitor, won 31.5

percent of the vote. Independent candidate Diane Gallagher won 11.9 percent, according to preliminary returns from the city's six wards.

The returns came as no surprise to area pollsters, who called Sanders the odds-on favorite and placed Burns — who was backed by a number of Republican businessmen and endorsed by the city's daily newspaper — a distant second.

"What we showed tonight is that you can take on the leadership of the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the big business community, the local paper . . . and you can beat them if you stick together," Sanders said in his victory speech.