

## State

# Sanders' Win Has Impact on House Races

By MEG DENNISON  
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER — Independent candidates for the Vermont House apparently were helped Tuesday night by the victory of independent congressional candidate Bernard Sanders.

With about half of the House races decided late Tuesday, the parties were evenly split with the number of seats they had won, but Republicans appeared unlikely to win enough seats to oust Democrat Ralph G. Wright as speaker.

At least two independents won in Burlington districts, taking the seats of Democrats, according to unofficial tallies by The Associated Press.

Tom Smith, who ran on the Progressive Coalition label, beat Democrat Elaine Charboneau, while Burlington Alderman Terry Bouricius defeated Democrat Ben Truman. Dean Corren, another independent, was running a close race with Democrat Alice Cook Bassett.

Wright and Democratic running mate Richard Pembroke held on to their Bennington County seats, despite a strong GOP challenge.

Republicans had mounted an effort to beat Wright in his district so they could get him out of the speaker's chair.

Democrats controlled both the



**Bernard Sanders**

House and Senate last year, with a 75-75 split in the House and a 16-14 split in the Senate.

Republicans went into Tuesday's elections with an edge of 21 uncontested House races; Democrats had 11.

Here are the unofficial results of some House races:

► In Burlington, Republican William Ciminetti won over Democrat Stan Simon. Republican Gene Sweetser also won a Burlington district, while Democrat Sally Fox held on to her seat.

Democrats Nancy Chioffi and Mary Sullivan also won in Burlington.

► Democrat Leon Babbie lost his seat in Franklin County.

► In Windham County, Democrats picked up a seat with the win of Virginia Milkey over Republican Albert Jerard. Democrat Robert Emond held on to his seat.

► In Washington County, Democrat Oreste Valsangiacomo held his seat, as did Republican Matt Krauss.

► In Windsor County, the Democrats lost a seat with the win of Patricia Welch over Democrat Robert Yoder. Lisa O'Neill, a Republican, and Democrat Marion Rogenski, won in their district.

► A House race in Windham County brought a surprise with the defeat of Republican Stuart Hunt by Democrat Ron Squires.

► In Addison County, incumbent Republican Elizabeth Hise lost to Democrat Bill Wisel, while incumbent Republican Lanny Smith lost to Democrat John Frieden. Incumbent Republican Walter Pyle overcame a challenge from Democrat Paul Stone.

The races for the state Senate also have been close, with Democrats working hard to hold on to their two seat majority.

In Chittenden County, incumbent Republican Hilton Wick appeared headed for defeat in a six-way race, but it was unclear

which of the challengers was running the strongest.

Democrat Paul Poirier was running neck-and-neck with incumbent Democrat Mary Just Skinner for one of three Washington County Senate seats. Democrat Jeb Spaulding was leading, while Republican William Doyle followed in second place.

Orange County Republican Stephen Webster appeared to be holding on to his seat from Democrat Charles Buttrey.

Incumbents John Carroll, a Republican, and Richard McCormack, a Democrat, appeared likely to hold on to their seats, but

the early returns were too close to determine which party would win the third seat.

In the Addison County Senate race, Democrat Elizabeth Ready was holding on to her seat, while Republican Tom Bahre was running slightly ahead of Democrat William Mathis for the second seat.

In Windham County, incumbent Jan Backus and incumbent Republican Robert Gannett won their seats. In the Windham County House races, Democrats picked up two more seats, leaving Republican Wendall Coleman the lone GOP representative.

## McClaghry, Sherman To Return to Senate

By YVONNE DALEY

Caledonia County is Republican country. Here, unlike the rest of the state, Michael Bernhardt received substantially more votes for lieutenant governor than the incumbent Howard Dean and Republican Richard Snelling received twice as many votes as Democratic gubernatorial candidate Peter Welch.

But even here, independent Bernard Sanders received more votes for U.S. Congress than the

poor and the working class and Smith lost because of his backing of a national gun control law.

Incumbent Republican Sens. John McClaghry and Joseph Sherman easily won re-election in Caledonia County.

In Hardwick, Rep. Paul Cillo, a Democrat and a Castleton native, won his bid for re-election over Ann Batten, a Republican who previously represented the area. He won the election by roughly 200 votes. The district