



Smith concedes: 'It wasn't my night. This was Bernie's night.'

It's Sanders

Snelling beats Welch in tight gubernatorial contest

GOVERNOR'S RACE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RICHARD SNELLING (R)	87,835	52%
<input type="checkbox"/> PETER WELCH (D)	87,238	49%

RESULTS AS OF 1:20 A.M. WITH 96% OF ALL PRECINCTS REPORTING

By Betsy Liley
Free Press Staff Writer

MONTPELIER — Republican Richard Snelling won election Tuesday to a fifth term, but Democrat Peter Welch surprised the experts by turning the race into a tight contest.

Snelling spoke to Welch by phone after midnight, saying: "I'm going to work very hard to bring us all together."

Minutes later he carried the message to an enthusiastic crowd of 125 gathered in the ballroom of the Montpelier Days Inn.

"The first task of any governor-elect is to bring together the people on the other side, the people who have fears, the people who were unsure," a beaming Snelling said, surrounded by his wife, children, grandchildren and his mother-in-law.

Snelling, who had been serenaded by the theme from the movie "Rocky" several times during the night, said the next task would be to appoint the five state agency secretaries. Snelling said he would be ready to discuss some of his appointments within three days.

Snelling hopes to have a full budget review completed by mid-December.

"Starting tomorrow early, we're off to work," Snelling said. "I am charged with energy."

Welch conceded the election at 12:15 a.m. at his Burlington headquarters, with members of his family and Gov. Madeleine Kunin by his side. His supporters chanted: "'92, '92," but Welch wouldn't comment on his campaign plans.

Welch congratulated Snelling and said, "I sincerely do wish him very well in the two years ahead because there is a lot at stake in the state of Vermont."

"The so-called experts called this race seven months ago," Welch had earlier said of pollsters who showed him losing by as much as 37 points at the start of the campaign.

Welch said his surprising showing "reflects the fact that we had a very straightforward message. It's time to start respecting the dignity of the middle-class, the working people and seniors."

"Peter has done amazingly well on a shoestring campaign," Kunin said.

By the most recent financial deadline, Snelling had outspent Welch by almost

Turn to SNELLING, 5A



ADAM RESNER, Free Press

Bernard Sanders claims victory Tuesday as Vermont's U.S. representative.

U.S. HOUSE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BERNARD SANDERS (D)	106,723	57%	<input type="checkbox"/> DOLORES SANDOVAL (D)	6,538	3%
<input type="checkbox"/> PETER SMITH (R)	73,462	39%	<input type="checkbox"/> PETER DIAMONDSTORE (D)	1,783	1%

RESULTS AS OF 1:20 A.M. WITH 96% OF ALL PRECINCTS REPORTING

By Paul Teator
Free Press Staff Writer

Vermont voters gave socialist Bernard Sanders an overwhelming mandate Tuesday to do what he has promised for years: Give 'em hell in Washington.

Sanders, the former four-term mayor of Burlington, is the first socialist elected to Congress in 40 years, benefiting from a rising tide of taxpayer anger about the way Congress does business.

At 1 a.m., Sanders held a 18 percentage-point lead over Republican incumbent Peter Smith. Sanders was winning in every county except Bennington.

Smith conceded at 10:10 p.m. in the Days Inn in Montpelier. Five minutes later, Sanders made his first victory speech after six unsuccessful tries for statewide office.

"Our small state might go down in history as the leading state in a political revolution which takes power away from the multinational corporations and the wealthy and gives it back to the people," Sanders said, while cheers rang out from the overflowing crowd at Memorial Auditorium in Burlington.

Sanders, the perennial underdog, is about to become a national celebrity.

His campaign manager, Rachel Levin, said Sanders will appear on the CBS television show "This Morning" today and that he might appear on several other national news shows.

"He won't just be one in 435 congressmen. He'll be one in a million," said Stuart Rothenberg, publisher of the Washington-based

Turn to REPUBLICAN, 4A

Sanders appreciates long-awaited victory

By Lisa Scagliotti
Free Press Staff Writer

Long before independent Bernard Sanders showed up at his victory party Tuesday night, his supporters knew he was on his way to becoming Vermont's next congressman.

But Sanders was slow to claim victory. He remained home with his wife, Jane, and their children while supporters gathered at Memorial Auditorium.

Even while watching election returns at home on television — where national networks called the race in his favor before 7:30 p.m. — no one took victory for granted.

"All of us were pretty nervous," Jane Sanders said.

By 8 p.m., those in the auditorium knew Sanders won in Springfield, Brattleboro, Rutland Town, and four wards in Burlington including the traditionally Republican Ward 4.

Although he said he would arrive by 9 p.m., the candidate and his family arrived just before 10 p.m. to a chorus of "Ber-nie, Ber-nie, Ber-nie" cheers from hundreds of supporters.

Taking the podium, Sanders would only say, "Things look good."

"You did it," one man screamed from the crowd.

"No, no, no, no," Sanders replied shaking his head. "You all remember two years ago?" he

Turn to SANDERS, 4A

Sanders appreciates long-awaited victory

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asked referring to how national TV predicted a win before his four-point loss to Smith in the 1988 U.S. House race.

"Yes," came the reponse from the crowd.

This is the man, who in 1981, won his first of four terms as Burlington's mayor by 10 votes recounted several days later.

By 10 p.m., the band started and the dancing began and a cautious Sanders moved through the crowd hugging supporters on all sides. But within just a few minutes, his opponent was on the big screen TV in the corner of the room.

"The bad news is, we lost the

election," Smith told the GOP gathering in Montpelier.

The cheers went up even louder at the Sanders' party: "Ber-nie, Ber-nie, Ber-nie."

Taking the podium again, Sanders recalled election night 1988. "Two years ago, we conceded, and I know the pain that he feels," Sanders said of Smith.

But he did not dwell on the past. Sanders thanked his organization of more than 1,000 volunteers and the thousands of supporters from every corner of the state saying his election to Congress means the start of a national "political revolution."

"Tonight is not the end but the beginning," he said. "We will not succeed unless all of us ... begin to

stand up and fight for what is right. That's what we intend to do in Congress."

Ending his remarks, Sanders left the main stage for live interviews with local and regional TV reporters. Some supporters brought Sanders a tiered chocolate cake with a miniature statue of Sanders in front of the Capitol.

The dancing started again across the bare basement floor. Faces in the crowd included City Hall workers past and present, winning and losing local candidates of the day, longtime supporters, and new volunteers.

Off to one side, Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry's Homemade Inc., scooped ice cream into little paper cups to go with the cake.

"I had my doubts," Cohen admitted about Sanders' candidacy. "But I think the chickens finally came home to roost."

Dennis Gilbert, the Hamilton College sociology professor Sanders recruited while teaching there this spring, conducted the campaign's weekly tracking polls. He said the candidate never believed the leads the numbers forecasted.

"I think he thought that polling is a little bit of hocus-pocus," Gilbert said.

Florence Thabault, a longtime Winooski Democrat, smiled and said the "young people" were to credit for Sanders' win. "They worked so hard for him," she said. "We're going to stir up Congress now."

Republican Smith loses his congressional seat to socialist Sanders

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"Political Report."

Smith, whose ads in the last week of the campaign attacked Sanders' integrity and values, was a gracious loser.

"This is a bitter defeat for me, but I'm proud of the job I've done," Smith said. "It wasn't my night. This was Bernie's night."

Smith blamed his loss on being forced to stay in Washington an extra three weeks while Congress grappled with the deficit reduction bill. "We lost the month of October, and taking nothing away from my opponent, you just can't do it in the two weeks we had left."

Vermont political analysts said Sanders won by a margin greater

— and earlier — than anyone had predicted.

"This means that, at least in Vermont, negative ads don't work," said Eric Davis, a political science professor at Middlebury College.

Sanders' win also got a quick national reaction.

"I think the election of Bernie Sanders tells us that someone who is of an independent mind, someone whom those who founded the country thought would constitute the citizenry of a democracy, has won," said Studs Terkel, a 78-year-old author and columnist.

In his victory speech, Sanders sounded the familiar themes that he is sure to bring up in Congress.

"We need a mass movement of tens of millions of people who will

stand up and say we want national health care, we want the millionaires and the multinational corporations to pay their fair share of taxes, we want more money going into education and the environment and no more Star Wars and stealth bombers," he said.

William Schneider, a political analyst at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, said Sanders might well emerge as the conscience of the Democratic Party — the same party that he has been bashing for 20 years.

"Bernie will get a lot of attention in Congress. He won with a lot of Democratic votes. He wants to join the Democratic caucus, and I think he will tell the Democrats they are supposed to stand up for working people," Schneider

said.

Sanders said he had spoken with Vermont's senior senator, Patrick Leahy, who promised the assistance of his staff in helping Sanders make the contacts he needs with congressional Democrats.

He said he will seek advice on legislative issues from environmentalist Barry Commoner, Dr. David Himmelstein, a Harvard Medical School professor, and consumer advocate Ralph Nader.

Davis said the race turned on Smith's vote for the first deficit reduction deal a month ago — a vote that put him on record as favoring \$60 billion in Medicare cuts, even though the proposal was defeated.

"It was obvious the race only

started going toward Sanders the last few weeks after Smith's vote for the first deficit deal. Normally, that vote was defensible, but given the climate it was indefensible and it put Smith totally on the defensive," Davis said.

Davis said Smith erred by running negative attack ads.

"The rule on negative ads is that they only work against unknown commodities. Bernie Sanders is a very well-known commodity as the mayor of Burlington. People may or may not like him, but they certainly know him. It's really a last-ditch strategy to try to redefine your opponent," he said.

Brian Cosgrove, executive director of the Vermont Republican Party, said Sanders ran a good

race and deserved to win.

"There was a widespread dissatisfaction with Congress as an institution, and Bernie was the beneficiary. The time was right for his message," Cosgrove said.

Hendrik Hertzberg, editor of New Republic magazine, said Sanders will expand the possibilities in Congress.

"It will be good to have Sanders in Washington because the biggest occupational disease of Congress is a sense of limited possibilities. The range of ideas that are discussed and taken seriously are extremely narrow, so someone who is committed to talking about a wider range of policy ideas will be welcome," he said.