

# THE SANTA BARBARA Independent

FREE • NOV. 7-13, 1996  
VOL. 10, NO. 520

The County's Entertainment Paper

## WINNERS

PHOTO FINISHES BY KIM REIERSON AND STEPHANIE DIANI  
STORY BY JERRY CORNFIELD, NICK WELSH, MIKE CHASE,  
MARTHA SADLER, AND TRIXIE

PRESIDENT CLINTON AND WALTER CAPPS PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM REIERSON • GAIL MARSHALL PHOTOGRAPH BY STEPHANIE DIANI





Walter Capps and President Bill Clinton, who thrilled thousands at Santa Barbara City College last week, will be teaming up plenty in the next two years, now that Capps is headed for Congress. As a freshman, Capps will likely lay low on most issues, the exceptions being education and environment—two topics that Clinton discussed at length in his SBCC speech.

# Winners and Losers

## On Night of Many Victories, Capps Unseats Seastrand, Becoming First Santa Barbara Democrat in Congress in 50 Years

BY JERRY CORNFELD,  
MIKE CHASE, MARTHA SADLER,  
AND NICK WELSH

PHOTOGRAPHS BY KIM REIERSON  
AND STEPHANIE DIANI

**W**alter Capps soared and Gail Marshall roared to decisive victories in Tuesday's elections. All in all, the county's Democrats, environmentalists, and social progressives cheered throughout the night as their candidates won—from President Clinton to Frank Ochoa, the first Latino elected to a Superior Court judgeship in recent history. Passage of Proposition 209 banning affirmative action dampened spirits, but smiles returned as the county's and California's voters backed boosting the minimum wage, protecting Northern California water-

ways, tightening campaign finance rules, and rejecting the sale of bonds to build more jails.

A bevy of interesting local races spurred an estimated 60 percent turnout of registered voters, far above the nationwide 49 percent average. One of those, the 22nd Congressional District, featured a rematch of the 1994 contest between the liberal-leaning Capps and arch-conservative Republican Andrea Seastrand that Seastrand won then by 1,600 votes. This time Capps soundly defeated Seastrand becoming Santa Barbara County's first Democrat member of Congress since George Outland in 1947. Capps reaped the benefits of a massive volunteer-driven get-out-the-vote offensive Tuesday, helping him outpoll her in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, which make up the 22nd District.

Marshall crushed Willy Cham-

berlin in their heated fight for the 3rd District supervisor's seat. Her 59 percent vote total was nothing less than shocking, given that Chamberlin nearly won the seat in the March primary. In the memorable 1992 campaign, Chamberlin thought he unseated Supervisor Bill Wallace by seven votes, only to be removed 19 months later following a recount by state justices. Marshall's success, like that of Wallace, whom she will succeed, can be traced to voters of UCSB, Isla Vista, and parts of the Goleta Valley preferring her environmentalist approach to Chamberlin's development-oriented attitude.

The election of three Santa Barbara school-board members remained undecided Wednesday. Top vote-getters Fred Rifkin and Bob Pohl seem assured spots, but fewer than 100 votes separated incumbent Grace Florez and Steve Forsell, with Brian Barnwell run-

ning a close fifth. Final results won't be known until the counting of an estimated 20,000 remaining absentee ballots from throughout the county finishes this week.

Ochoa made history, too, becoming the first Latino Superior Court judge with his win over Municipal Court Judge Barbara Beck. In other races, Republican Assemblymember Brooks Firestone glided to a second term; Lompoc Mayor Joyce Howerton won re-election to a third term; and DeWayne Holmdahl, former county supervisor, successfully reentered politics by capturing a seat on the Lompoc City Council.

One of the true happy moments had to be in the Goleta Union School District, where voters, on the third try in two years, passed a \$26-million bond measure to rebuild the 10 elementary campuses.

In the hours before ballot-

counting began, candidates and supporters campaigned fiercely. In Isla Vista, the California Republican Party sent people to monitor voting in each precinct for potential challenges of ballots later. Now, given Marshall's and Capps's wins, such post-election efforts seem unlikely.

After polls closed, the parties began. Capps's bash at the University Club and Ochoa's party at El Paseo drew capacity crowds of well-wishers, who hovered around television screens, munching hors d'oeuvres while awaiting results. A corner of the Santa Barbara Courthouse became election central, the hub of activity where candidates dropped in, checked results, did radio and television interviews and then fanned back out to their private gatherings, or home to bed long before the night's last vote was tallied at 2:19 a.m., Wednesday.

ELECTIONS CONTINUED ▶





◀ Everywhere Gail Marshall turned inside the Santa Barbara Courthouse Tuesday night, someone "high-fived" her for winning the 3rd District superior seat by defeating favored Willy Chamberlin. "I feel great," said Marshall, who was visibly exhausted by night's end. Veteran 3rd District politico John Beck (background), a key advisor to Marshall, talked with Superintendent of Schools Bill Cirone about the unfolding events as Marshall celebrated with another backer. Marshall, a novice to politics when she entered the race 11 months ago, is a toughened campaigner anxious to take her seat on the Board of Supervisors in January. "I felt overwhelmed when I started. I can't even describe it. Today, I feel pretty confident," she said.

KIM REIERSON

## Elections

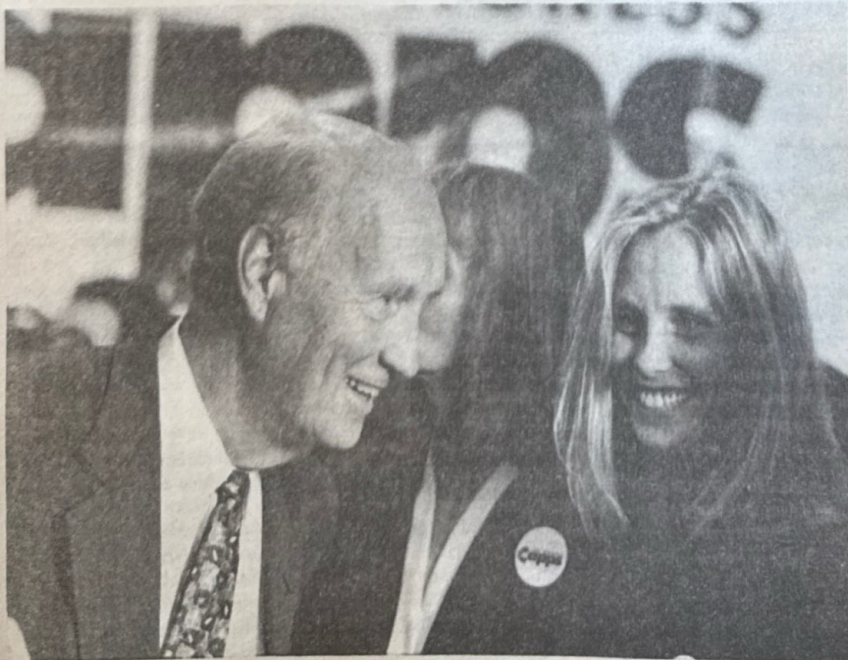
◀ CONTINUED

Two of the winners, Frank Ochoa (left) and Brooks Firestone, shared victory smiles on Tuesday night ▶ as the results rolled in. Ochoa faced Barbara Beck in a close race for Santa Barbara Superior Court Judge that was primarily split along geographical lines. Beck serves on the Municipal Court bench in Santa Maria, while Ochoa does the same in Santa Barbara. Ochoa, who will be replacing retiring Judge James Slater on January 2, will be the first Latino to hold the position. Firestone, a vintner, who is considered a moderate Republican, never broke a sweat as he breezed to victory for his second term to the State Assembly. He garnered 65 percent of the vote in defeating his 22-year-old Democratic challenger, Aneesh Lele.



KIM REIERSON

Walter Capps shares a moment with daughter Laura Capps at their election night party. Laura Capps works for White House advisor George Stephanopolous, who played a key role in getting President Clinton to Santa Barbara late last week, First Lady Hilary Rodham Clinton a few weeks before that, and a host of high ranking Democratic Party leaders in between. Capps is betting that when he gets to Washington, his White House connections will prove invaluable. Meanwhile, Lois Capps (right) proved an eager and able campaigner, more so, it sometimes seemed, than her candidate husband, Walter. ▼



KIM REIERSON