



# GOP sweeps all 3 positions on high court

By JIM PROVANCE  
BLADE COLUMBUS BUREAU

COLUMBUS — A sweep of three contested races for Ohio Supreme Court last night strengthened Republican dominance of the high court and has left Democrats with just one statewide office.

With 76.2 percent of the unofficial vote counted, Toledo-based appellate Judge Judith Lanzinger was on her way to defeating Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Judge Nancy Fuerst to become the newest justice. For the second time in its 201-year history, the court will have a 4-3 female majority.

Judge Lanzinger, of the 6th District Court of Appeals, was leading with 58.3 percent of the unofficial vote. She will replace retiring Justice Francis Sweeney, a Cleveland Democrat.

Judge Fuerst called Judge Lanzinger about midnight to concede the race.

Chief Justice Thomas Moyer of Columbus had the closest race of the night, winning a rare fourth six-year term as chief, defeating retired Cleveland Municipal Judge C. Ellen Connally. After a fourth term, he will be the second longest serving chief justice in Ohio history.

Voters decided Justice Ter-



Moyer

Lanzinger

O'Donnell

rence O'Donnell of suburban Cleveland deserves to complete the two years left in the term to which Gov. Bob Taft appointed him last year. He won over poorly financed William O'Neill, a Warren-based appellate judge.

Justice Paul Pfeifer, a Bucyrus Republican, was unopposed in his bid for a third term.

The new, 6-1 Republican court is expected to face cases challenging legislation limiting how much patients may collect in medical malpractice lawsuits and when someone exposed to asbestos may sue.

The court, however, had often allied 4-3 with Justice Pfeifer

joining Justice Sweeney and Justice Alice Robie Resnick, an Ottawa Hills Democrat, in the minority. The new alliance, with the addition of Judge Lanzinger, would presumably be 5-2.

"I think it will be a stronger court," said Chief Justice Moyer. "I think we'll provide more consistency, more predictability in the law. That's very important."

Judge Lanzinger agreed that she probably fits into the new majority, but added, "I can't tell how I'm going to vote on a particular case until I look at the facts with an open mind. I've said I'm not going to be part of any particular agenda, and

## OHIO SUPREME COURT

	Votes	Percent
✓ Moyer*	1,911,549	54.3
Connally	1,608,368	45.7
<b>Votes Percent</b>		
✓ Lanzinger	1,995,441	57.4
Fuerst	1,478,849	42.6
<b>Votes Percent</b>		
✓ O'Donnell*	2,027,575	60.3
O'Neill	1,337,189	39.7
<b>Votes Percent</b>		
✓ Pfeifer*	2,759,908	100

\*incumbent

that's not going to change now that I'm successful."

The Democratic challengers had said the "judicial restraint" philosophy of the court amounted to a rubber-stamp for the General Assembly.

# EXIT POLLING U.S. court overrules Blackwell on limits

## Interviews OK'd outside precincts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS — Exit polling can be conducted within 100 feet of a polling place on Election Day, a federal judge ruled.

U.S. District Judge Michael H. Watson's ruling on Monday night overturned an October directive by Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell to prohibit exit polling within 100 feet of precincts.

In a similar case filed by the Akron Beacon Journal, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati ruled yesterday that reporters and photographers should have access to polling places as long as they don't interfere with voters or poll workers.

Five television networks — ABC, CNN, CBS, Fox News, and NBC — and the Associated Press sued on Monday, seeking a temporary order to block Mr. Blackwell's directive that limited the exit-poll surveys, even though there had been no prior problems.

"Polling activities such as these have been conducted in this manner for over two decades," Judge Watson wrote in his nine-page ruling. "There is no evidence before the court that these activities have ever impinged on a citizen's right to vote."

Betty Hull, spokesman for the secretary of state, said yesterday that Mr. Blackwell would abide by the ruling.

The news organizations have formed a consortium to collect exit-polling data in Ohio and other states. The organizations said Mr. Blackwell's prohibition would have hindered their ability to gather information about the political process and would have violated constitutional guarantees of free speech.

Dave Tomlin, AP assistant general counsel, said that exit polling provides insight into how people vote.

"Everyone will benefit from this ruling, especially citizens who want to understand after this election is over, why it came out the way it did," Mr. Tomlin said. "That's the real benefit from exit polling."

# Gardner, Jordan keep seats in Senate

## Citizens in Ohio favor incumbents

In his bid for a second term in the Ohio Senate, Randy Gardner (R., Bowling Green) handily defeated challenger Nathan Nickens, a Bowling Green State University senior from Sylvania.

Mr. Gardner, 46, said he is grateful to the residents in the 2nd District for their vote of confidence and support.

Campaign finance reform is a top priority for the senator, who said last night said that he plans to meet today in Columbus with Gov. Bob Taft and other officials to discuss the issue of campaign finance.



Gardner



Jordan

His goal, Mr. Gardner said, is to pass a bill this year that would require full disclosure of all political funds for campaigns and candidates.

Cleaning up the political process and providing full disclosure, he said, are key elements to restoring public confidence.

As results came in, Mr. Nickens, 22, who was making his first bid for public office, said it was really an exciting night, adding that the campaign "was one of the most exciting experiences of my life, my short life."

He said that it was a beneficial experience for him to be a candidate as well as for voters in the district.

He said he might run again for office.

"I'm not ruling anything out," he said.

During his campaign, Mr. Nickens, a Democrat, said he wanted to make education the No. 1 priority in Ohio.

Mr. Gardner served 15 years in the Ohio House before he was forced out by term limits. The Ohio 2nd District encompasses Wood and Erie counties and portions of Lucas and Ottawa counties.

In the 12th District, which includes Allen, Champaign, Darke, Mercer, and Shelby counties and part of Auglaize County, Sen. Jim Jordan (R., Urbana) appeared to be heading for a second four-year term.

He was challenged by Jack Kaffenberger, an independent candidate from Greenville. Mr. Jordan, 40, defeated Mr. Kaffenberger for the seat four years ago.

Rank-and-file senators are paid \$54,942.

OHIO STATE SENATE		
<b>2ND DISTRICT</b>		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Gardner*	67,756	61.5%
Nickens	42,348	38.5%
<b>12TH DISTRICT</b>		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Jordan*	107,406	79%
Kaffenberger	28,467	21%

\*incumbent  
All results unofficial

## UPHOLDING HIS BELIEFS



THE BLADE/ALLAN DETRICH

A lone person holds up a sign at the corner of Western and the Anthony Wayne Trail. Even on a drizzly Election Day, people still were out pitching for their candidates, hoping to convince those remaining undecided voters.

# Wagoner, incumbents Perry, Uvagi leading

## LUCAS COUNTY STATE REPS.

46TH DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Wagoner	31,765	62.3
Greeley	19,221	37.7
47TH DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
Goulding	8,242	27.6
✓ Uvagi*	21,646	72.4
49TH DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
Myers	10,796	28.3
✓ Perry*	27,361	71.7

\*incumbent  
93 percent of precincts reporting

By KIM BATES  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

A political newcomer appeared to be successful last night in keeping a suburban Lucas County state representative seat in Republican hands, while three Democratic incumbent representatives were on their way to being re-elected.

With 83 of 140 precincts reporting, Mark Wagoner was defeating Nancy Patrick Greeley, a former Maumee city councilman, in the 46th House District. The seat, which includes western communities such as Ottawa Hills, Sylvania, and Maumee, is held by State Rep. Lynn Olman, who must step down by law because of term limits. He ran for county com-



Wagoner

Perry

Uvagi

missioner. Mr. Wagoner said he was "guardedly optimistic" with the preliminary election results. He said personal contact with voters likely had a positive impact on his vote tallies.

In the three other Lucas County state representative

racess, which had partial precincts reporting only, all of the incumbents were retaining their jobs, which pay \$54,942 annually.

In the 49th House District, state Rep. Jeanine Perry (D., Toledo), a former Toledo city councilman who has held the House seat for more than a decade, was beating political newcomer Christopher Myers. The district runs from Jerusalem Township west through Oregon, Washington Township, and North and West Toledo.

State Rep. Peter Uvagi (D., Toledo) was on his way to re-election in the 47th House District against Republican Mike Goulding, a Toledo attorney. Parts of East Toledo, the Old South End, South Toledo, and a portion of Reynolds Road and Airport Highway are in the district. Mr. Uvagi, a former Toledo City Council member, was first elected in 2002 to represent the district.

Mr. Goulding is a partner at the Shindler, Neff, Holmes, Schlageter, and Mohler law firm. State Rep. Edna Brown (D., Toledo) was unopposed for re-election in the 48th District, which includes central Toledo, and parts of West and North Toledo.

# Republicans re-elected in 6 northwest Ohio House districts

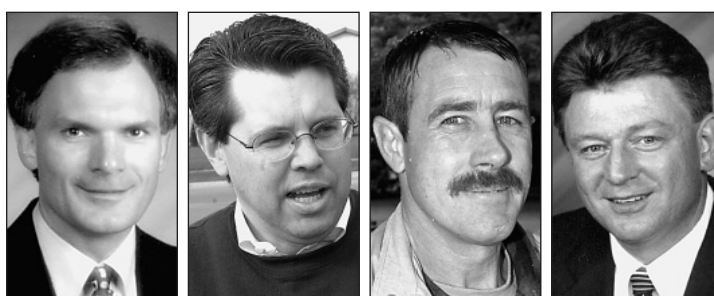
By ELIZABETH A. SHACK  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

Voters in six northwest Ohio House districts sent familiar faces back to the Statehouse as incumbent Republicans won re-election.

In the 6th District, which covers Wood County, State Rep. Bob Latta, of Bowling Green, soundly defeated Democrat Scott McCarty, a construction worker from Perrysburg Township who was challenging Mr. Latta for the second time.

Mr. Latta has said he is committed to controlling state spending while making sure state dollars are being spent effectively. He is a lawyer and chairman of the House Criminal Justice Committee and is a former Wood County commissioner and state senator.

Rep. Mike Gilb, of Findlay, easily defeated Democrat Ken Ludwig, a union millwright from Findlay, in the 76th District, which encompasses Han-



Latta

Gilb

Wagner

Hoops

cock and Hardin counties and a portion of Auglaize County.

Mr. Ludwig, former chairman of both the Hancock County Democratic Party and the county AFL-CIO, was running against Mr. Gilb, a lawyer, for the third time.

In the 81st District, which includes Sandusky County, the western half of Seneca County, and part of southern Ottawa County, freshman Rep. Jeff Wagner, of Sycamore, defeated Sandusky County Auditor Bill

Farrell, a Democrat from Fremont.

Mr. Wagner is a former Seneca County commissioner.

In the 75th District, incumbent James Hoops defeated Democrat Ben Nienberg, a newcomer to politics, for the seat representing Henry, Putnam, Paulding, and Van Wert counties along with Adams Township in Defiance County.

Mr. Hoops, of Napoleon, who is finishing his third term in the House, is on the education,

finance and appropriations, health, and transportation and public safety committees.

He was Henry County auditor from 1985 to 1998 and was president of the Ohio County Auditors' Association in 1992. He became a state representative in 1999.

Mr. Nienberg owns Nienberg Investments & Insurance LLC in Putnam County's Glandorf. In the 82nd District, which covers Wyandot, Crawford, and northern Marion counties, two-term Rep. Steve Reinhard, of Bucyrus, defeated Democrat David Combs of Marion, a factory worker.

Stephen Buehrer, a Republican from Delta, was unopposed in his bid for re-election in the 74th District, which encompasses all of Fulton, Williams, and Defiance counties with the exception of Adams Township.

Ohio House members are paid \$54,942 a year.

## NORTHWEST OHIO STATE REPRESENTATIVES

6TH DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Latta*	35,724	62.9
McCarty	21,112	37.1
75TH DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Hoops*	36,458	69.5
Nienberg	15,994	30.5
76TH DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Gilb*	30,424	67.7
Ludwig	14,484	32.3
81ST DISTRICT		
	Votes	Percent
✓ Wagner*	33,454	59.2
Farrell	23,030	40.8

\*incumbent  
Incomplete results