

38 of 153 DOCUMENTS

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The Washington Post

November 5, 1986, Wednesday, Final Edition

SECTION: FIRST SECTION; PAGE A1

LENGTH: 1802 words

HEADLINE: MARYLAND;
Schaefer, Mikulski Lead Democratic Sweep at the Top

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BODY:

Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer was elected governor and Rep. Barbara A. Mikulski was elected to the U.S. Senate yesterday in a historic election that brought a dramatic turnover of Maryland political leaders and signaled a voter preference for colorful, home-grown politicians.

Schaefer, 65, defeated Republican state Del. Thomas J. Mooney, 42, with the most lopsided ratio in a gubernatorial contest in state history, winning 82 percent of the vote.

Mikulski, 50, the daughter of a Polish American grocer from East Baltimore, defeated 39-year-old Republican Linda Chavez by 3 to 2 on the strength of deep support in the Washington suburbs and her home base of Baltimore.

While the two blunt-spoken veterans of Baltimore's local government led a Democratic sweep of statewide offices, the GOP dashed Democratic hopes of an all-Democratic congressional delegation. Republicans captured two of the state's eight House seats and still had a chance to win a third.

In the 8th District, which includes eastern Montgomery County, Republican state Del. Constance A. Morella, 55, scored an upset victory over Democratic state Sen. Stewart Bainum Jr., 40, winning close to 53 percent of the vote.

Another Republican, state Del. Robert R. Neall, 38, was in a cliffhanger with former Washington Bullets basketball player Tom McMillen, a 34-year-old Democrat, in the 4th District, which includes Anne Arundel County and a part of Prince George's County.

With all precincts reporting, McMillen was leading Neall by 1,283 votes out of a total of more than 125,000 cast. However, the outcome of the election was not expected to be resolved until tomorrow, when about 3,600 absentee ballots will be counted.

The most solid victory for Republicans in a state where Democrats hold nearly a 3-to-1 edge in voter registration came in the 2nd District, where freshman Rep. Helen Delich Bentley, 62, defeated Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, a 35-year-old assistant state attorney general and daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

In Montgomery, Democrat Sidney Kramer, 61, defeated Republican Edward L. Gannon, 55, 2 to 1 in the race for county executive.

In Prince George's, County Executive Parris N. Glendening, 44, a Democrat, easily won and became the first chief

MARYLAND;Schaefer, Mikulski Lead Democratic Sweep at the Top The Washing

executive reelected in that county since the inception of charter government there in 1971. He faced minor opposition.

Also in Prince George's, Democratic state's attorney nominee Alex Williams, a 38-year-old Howard University Law School professor, became the first black elected to that office in his contest with Republican David Simpson, 35.

Schaefer's overwhelming victory over Mooney set the stage for a Democratic sweep of statewide offices. Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein, 73, and Attorney General-elect J. Joseph Curran Jr., 55, faced no opponents in their races.

Schaefer had an edge of more than 4 to 1 with all but two of the 1,568 precincts reporting. He shattered a record set in 1867, when Democrat Oden Bowie won his campaign against Republican Hugh Bond with 74 percent of the vote, aided by the anti-Republican sentiment whipped up by the Union Army's occupation of Maryland in the Civil War.

Mikulski's 61 percent-to-39 percent victory over Chavez makes her the first Democratic woman elected to the U.S. Senate without being preceded in the office by a spouse.

Her election will keep the number of women in the 100-member Senate at two. The other woman is Nancy L. Kassebaum, a Kansas Republican. Florida Republican Sen. Paula Hawkins was defeated in her bid for reelection.

Except for Goldstein, a resident of Calvert County, the election of Schaefer, Mikulski and Curran concentrates the state's top offices in the hands of Baltimore natives for the first time in at least three decades.

In addition, Schaefer's victorious running mate for lieutenant governor, Melvin A. Steinberg, 52, is a Baltimore native whose political roots are in the nearby suburb of Pikesville. Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes, a Baltimore Democrat who was returned to office for a second term in 1982, will become the state's senior senator.

When Mikulski takes office, it will be the first time since 1968 that both Maryland senators are Democrats.

Both Schaefer, whose strong identification with Baltimore polarized some voters in the Washington suburbs in the primary election, and Mikulski promised in their victory speeches to represent the interests of the entire state.

"To the people over there in Montgomery County and Prince George's County, we are going to keep you strong," Schaefer said in a rambling, 15-minute speech to supporters gathered at Baltimore's Omni International Hotel. "We're going to help you with roads and schools and keep that economy high over in those areas over there."

Mikulski, speaking at the Power Plant indoor amusement park to a group that included news media representatives from around the world, said, "I will be a senator for all Maryland. I intend to be an independent voice for all Maryland, in the great tradition of Paul Sarbanes and [retiring GOP Sen. Charles McC.] 'Mac' Mathias.

"For I deeply believe that the things that unite us are far stronger than those that divide us."

In conceding last night, Chavez complimented Mikulski: "I want to say a word about my opponent, because I think she ran a very good and a very smart campaign. Barbara Mikulski is someone to be admired because she fought very hard, sometimes against the odds, and I believe that she deserves the credit that is due her tonight, and I want to wish her well in her new career as U.S. senator."

With voter turnout statewide slightly above the 60 percent average for a gubernatorial election, Democrats also appeared likely to hold on to all six county executive positions. In Howard County, Democratic County Council member Elizabeth Bobo won election as the first woman to be a county executive in the state.

Yesterday's results gave the struggling state GOP only a glimmer of hope that the minority party was improving its status in Maryland.

MARYLAND;Schaefer, Mikulski Lead Democratic Sweep at the Top The Washing

A gloomy election year forecast for the Republican Party was first made last fall when the GOP's longtime standard-bearer, Mathias, of Frederick, announced his retirement after a quarter century in Congress.

His retirement after three Senate terms, and Chavez and Mooney's defeats, mean that the highest-ranking Republican officeholder in the state will be a member of Congress: freshman Bentley, a strong supporter of President Reagan whose district includes parts of Baltimore and Harford counties.

Yesterday's election also represents a sweeping changing of the guard in Maryland political circles, bringing to office a generation of top leaders who likely will shape the state's politics and government for the rest of the century.

With the exception of the colorful Goldstein, a state institution who will begin his 29th year as comptroller, there will be little continuity in Annapolis when the new administration and General Assembly take office in January. In addition to a new governor, lieutenant governor and attorney general, the state will have new presiding officers in the House of Delegates and the Senate.

The congressional delegation also undergoes a dramatic shake-up, with half of the eight House members joining Mathias in retirement.

It was Mathias' decision to retire, announced last fall, combined with the constitutionally mandated departure from office of Democratic Gov. Harry Hughes after two terms, that set the stage for this year's widespread political upheaval. Those vacancies created an updraft that inspired candidates from the lowest rungs of the political ladder to seek higher offices.

Montgomery, the adopted home of Mathias, was particularly drawn to the fray. The combination in Montgomery of an independent political tradition and an affluent electorate that is generous with campaign donations helped spur numerous candidates to run for higher offices. With Mathias' retirement, Montgomery's U.S. representative jumped into the primary running for the Senate, state legislators ran for Congress, and so on.

Although Schaefer had a spirited campaign challenge in the Democratic primary, he all but coasted home in the general election. Mooney was so small an obstacle to Schaefer that the four-term mayor of Baltimore ran no campaign commercials during the eight-week general election period.

En route to the State House, Schaefer accumulated a war chest of \$ 2.8 million, by far the highest amount raised by a gubernatorial candidate in Maryland history.

Mooney last night blamed the Republican Party for leaving him "hanging in the wind, like a sheet in a hurricane," but he credited Schaefer with being "a celebrity, someone larger than life."

Mikulski faced a stiffer challenge than Schaefer in her race against Chavez, which drew national and international attention in part because of the rarity of having two women from major parties run against each other for the Senate -- it was the second time in U.S. history.

The former White House aide's aggressive campaign style heightened the visibility of the contest. She called Mikulski a "San Francisco-style Democrat" in her primary night victory speech, and soon after that she launched a negative television campaign and a series of news conferences attacking Mikulski as "antimale" for having hired a radical feminist onto her congressional staff five years ago.

Nevertheless, she was never able to get within striking distance of the Democratic nominee.

Chavez's difficulties appeared to stem in part from her status as a newcomer to Maryland. Although widely known in Washington political circles because of her controversial stint as staff director of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, she did not move to Bethesda until 1984.

MARYLAND;Schaefer, Mikulski Lead Democratic Sweep at the Top The Washing

By contrast, Mikulski is a familiar political figure in the Baltimore area. She climbed the political ladder as a grass roots organizer and then as a Baltimore City Council member.

Chavez pinned her hopes for success on attracting Democratic voters who had supported Reagan when he carried the state in 1984. That strategy seemed to work in the conservative enclaves of Western Maryland and the Eastern Shore. Chavez carried 12 of the state's 24 jurisdictions, all small and rural.

Her campaign tried to portray Mikulski as favoring busing and racial quotas and being soft on defense, but those themes did not seem to sway Mikulski's widespread following in urban areas and fast-growing suburbs.

Last night, Mikulski referred to Chavez's negative campaign attacks in her acceptance speech, drawing loud cheers from her supporters when she said, "The voters of Maryland vindicated the ideals of fairness and decency. They said that in the free state of Maryland, dirty politics is losing politics."

GRAPHIC: Photo, Gov.-elect William Donald Schaefer, with Lt. Gov.-elect Melvin A. Steniberg at Democratic celebration in Baltimore. (William Donald Schaefer with Melvin A. Steinberg), Harry Naltchayan