

Voters Warm On N-Freeze But the Results Mixed on Abortion

By Jim Lackey
NC News Service

The nuclear freeze movement won big while both sides on the abortion issue claimed victory in last week's election.

Though the main issue was the Reagan administration's handling of the economy, voters across the nation cast their ballots on a variety of concerns, including capital punishment, aid to nonpublic schools, U.S. policy in El Salvador and farming by large corporations.

Citizen referendums urging an immediate and verifiable bilateral freeze on nuclear weapons production were approved in eight of the nine states where they appeared on the ballot. Only in Arizona did the measure lose.

The freeze was approved by substantial majorities in Massachusetts and New Jersey and also won in California, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon and Rhode Island.

The freeze also was backed by voters in numerous counties and cities, including Philadelphia, where Cardinal John Krol had joined other religious leaders in supporting the measure.

In Cleveland, where the city charter prohibited the

placing of a nuclear freeze referendum on the ballot, voters approved a city charter amendment to prohibit funding for civil defense against nuclear war. Bishop Anthony M. Pilla had endorsed passage of the issue.

On abortion, pro-life groups counted a gain of two seats in the Senate, where abortion again is expected to be a major issue when the new Congress convenes next January.

Pro-lifers picked up a seat in Nevada, where Republican Chic Hecht upset four-term Sen. Howard W. Cannon. They also claimed victory in Virginia, where Republican Rep. Paul S. Trible moved into the seat vacated by retiring Sen. Harry F. Byrd Jr.

Pro-lifers also were relieved that three Senate supporters — John C. Danforth of Missouri, David Durenberger of Minnesota and Orrin Hatch of Utah — survived stiff challenges.

But they failed to remove several other senators who support abortion rights. Of the 12 senators who were targeted for defeat by the Life Amendment Political Action Committee, only one — Cannon — lost. Nine were re-elected while two others did not seek new terms.

Massachusetts and California defeated proposed amendments to state constitutions to permit increased aid to nonpublic school students.

Massachusetts voters also voted to restore the death penalty. The measure had been opposed by the state's Catholic bishops, who argued that questions about the morality of capital punishment should be resolved in favor of the right to life.

Another state where Catholic bishops got involved was Nebraska, where voters approved a "save the family farm" proposal. The initiative amends the state constitution by prohibiting future acquisition of land for agricultural use by non-family farm corporations. It was strongly supported by the state's three Catholic bishops and the state Catholic Conference.

Several communities also approved non-binding referenda supporting an end to U.S. aid to El Salvador. In Multnomah County, Oregon, which includes Portland, 76 percent of the voters approved the El Salvador resolution. It also was approved by the Vermont communities of Burlington and St. Albans, where supporters hope to get the issue on the agenda for New England town meetings next March. Much of the momentum for the

nuclear freeze came from approval of freeze resolutions at town meetings earlier this year.

And in Worcester, Mass., voters approved a resolution requiring the Massachusetts legislature to urge Congress to divert funds from the military to jobs that promote peace.

Dr. John C. Willkie, president of the National Right to Life Committee, noted at a news conference Nov. 3 that it was uncertain whether pro-life forces gained or lost in the House.

He warned, however, that gains by the Democrats in the House did not necessarily mean a loss of pro-life strength. A number of freshmen Democrats will vote against abortion, he said.

But a spokeswoman for the National Abortion Rights Action League, Marguerite Beck-Rex, said her organization's tallies showed a gain for their cause in the House.

Voters in Alaska, meanwhile, defeated a proposal to limit state funding of abortions to cases in which the life of the mother is endangered. The Catholic bishops of Alaska had issued a pastoral letter urging support for the proposal.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

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Unique Art Show Opens at Wilson

The Friends of the Rochester Psychiatric Center (RPC) is sponsoring the first annual art show of former and present patient's art work,

Nov. 10-17 at the Wilson Gallery of the Harley School, 1981 Clover St. The show will open with a reception from 4 to 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 12, at

the gallery.

The purpose of the show is to acquaint the general public with the art work being done by patients at the center, but also to "Give the patients incentive and build self-esteem in the individual," said Carolyn Zimmerman, chairman of the Friends. Eileen Bersten, RPC public information officer, agreed.

"It's beneficial," she said, "for patients to show their artwork outside the institutional setting."

The show "Creative Art" is open to the public and will feature some 75 works of art. The artists have been working

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DPC Agenda

St. Francis deSales School, 110 Exchange St., Geneva

9 a.m.-9:45

Opening Prayer
(prepared by the YOW Region)
Minutes and Agenda Approval
Chairperson's Remarks
Correspondence
Directors' Report
Priests' Council Report
Sisters' Council Report
Youth Report

9:45-10

Break

10:10-30

Bishop Clark

10:30-12

The Fire in the Thornbush
Sister Mary Sullivan
Mrs. Sara McLaughlin
Overview and small group discussion on assigned areas

12:1 p.m.

Liturgy (prepared by the YOW Region)
Lunch — please bring your own; drinks will be provided

1-1:30

Evangelization Task Force Report
Father John Mulligan

1:30-2

Constitution Revision Report and
Discussion, Jack McCarthy

2-2:15

Needs Assessment and MRC Reports

2:15-2:35

Bishop Clark's Open Forum

2:35-2:50

Regional and Appointed Reports

2:50-2:55

Evaluation and Closing Prayer
(prepared by YOW Region)

3 p.m.

Departure

on their art since mid-summer, and the show's committee has been planning and organizing since last February.

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