

Ballot measures winners

Strong turnouts in two communities

By Mark Simon
Times Tribune staff

Strong voter turnouts in East Palo Alto and Atherton may have been key factors in the passage of two measures on the ballots of those two communities Tuesday, while a small turnout may have helped defeat a tax increase in the Foothill-De Anza Community College District.

Tuesday's balloting represented the first citywide election since East Palo Alto became a city in June, and voters turned out in higher-than-average numbers to uphold a City Council decision in favor of rent controls.

In East Palo Alto, the rent control law was approved 58.8 percent to 41.2 percent, with 30 percent of the city's voters casting ballots.

Other Peninsula cities, including Mountain View, Sunnyvale and Palo Alto, have rejected rent-control proposals.

The high turnout in East Palo Alto was the exception in balloting throughout Peninsula cities.

In the Foothill-De Anza district, only 21.1 percent of the voters went to the polls. They gave a majority approval of 57.5 percent to a tax increase proposal, but 42.5 percent voted against the measure and that proved enough to deny the tax the two-thirds approval required for enactment.

Measure A was on the ballot in Los Altos, Los Altos Hills, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Sunnyvale and Cupertino, and would have taxed the average homeowner \$25 a year, district officials said.

The money was to go to long-term maintenance and building improvements. Now, district officials say they are uncertain where they can go to find revenues that will allow them to provide adequate services.

But a turnout of nearly half the voters in Atherton may have helped push through a property tax proposal in that town.

Atherton voters turned out in the highest numbers on the Peninsula to approve a tax they rejected just

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Times Tribune photo by Norbert von der Groeben

East Palo Alto Councilman Ruben Abrica (third from left) celebrates an election victory for rent control Tuesday night amid cheering supporters and punch-filled paper cups. In the new city's first election, voters overwhelmingly approved the city's five-month old ordinance, which limits rent increases to the rate of inflation and establishes a Rent Stabilization Board. A group of homeowners and absentee landlords filed the referendum petition that forced the vote.

The Pennsylvania defeat was a big one for Gary Hart

By Larry Eichel
Knight-Ridder

Analysis

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PHILADELPHIA — It took Colorado Sen. Gary Hart only three weeks in late February and early March to come from nowhere and emerge as the man most likely to run away with the Democratic presidential nomination.

And it has taken him just three weeks more to dig himself into a cavernous political hole from which he will have an extremely difficult time extricating himself.

By beating Hart so handily in the Pennsylvania primary Tuesday, former Vice President Walter F. Mondale, who resisted for weeks all suggestions that he was once again the front-runner, has re-

emerged as the likely Democratic presidential nominee.

"This is a big win," Mondale said to his supporters. "I think it helps us a lot. And we'll take it from there, but I've got to be encouraged by this result. I think it's a major step forward."

And by winning the heavily Democratic city of Philadelphia, the Rev. Jesse Jackson has solidified

his status as a formidable, alternative force at the convention.

For Hart, the results from Pennsylvania simply confirmed his standing as the No. 2 candidate in a race where second surely does not count for very much.

The magnitude of Mondale's triumph does not necessarily lock up the nomination for him, even though he won 124 of the 172 delegates at stake, according to latest estimates.

For one thing, all the delegates are technically free agents this year, and more than 1,700 of the 3,933 convention participants remain to be selected.

In addition, a lot of delegates

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E. Palo Alto voters back rent control

By Thomas G. Keane
Times Tribune staff

In their first city election, East Palo Alto voters Tuesday approved a hotly contested rent-control ordinance by an overwhelming margin — a visible display of political strength by the four City Council members backing the measure.

In the final unofficial tally, 1,509 voted in favor of rent control (58.8 percent), and 1,059 voted against the measure (41.2 percent). Of the city's 8,400 registered voters, 30 percent cast ballots.

Several cities in the Bay Area have similar ordinances, but East Palo Alto's vote marks the first time a Peninsula city's voters have backed one.

"We built up the trust of the people and they believed in us," Mayor Barbara Mouton said Tuesday night. Mouton, along with Councilmen Omowale Satterwhite and Ruben Abrica, celebrated victory amid cheering supporters and punch-filled paper cups Tuesday night.

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The vote struck down a referendum measure challenging the rent-control ordinance the City Council passed 4-1 in November. Councilwoman Gertrude Wilks cast the only "no" vote.

The ordinance limits rent increases to the rate of inflation during the next two years. It establishes a Rent Stabilization Board to mediate landlord-tenant disputes and set the rate of allowable increases.

A group called the East Palo Alto Property Rights Committee — a number of homeowners teamed with the city's absentee landlords — challenged the rent measure.

The referendum petition filed by the property rights group had 1,592 valid signatures, 533 more than the number of people who voted

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Associated Press

For Gary Hart, the results from Pennsylvania simply confirm his standing as the No. 2 candidate in a race where second does not count for very much.

Hart has argued for weeks that the second half of the process, with its tilt toward his native West, should work to his advantage.

"We're headed into our territory," Hart said Tuesday. "I think everybody in comments on this race ought to get out of the notion that there is a watershed state. There isn't a watershed state."

But all this does mean, at the very least, that it has become all but numerically impossible for Hart to capture the 1,967 delegates

half the magic number of delegates.

But Hart is not about to drop out. He can take advantage of the coming hiatus in the campaign — the next major event is the Texas caucuses on May 5 — to rest his weary mind and body, raise money, refine his message and generally figure out where he is going.

He will also have to hope for quick victories in upcoming caucuses in Arizona, Utah and Missou-

the economic conditions, the demographic nature of the population, the power of the labor unions and the influence of the political establishment all conspired against him.

The fact is that Hart had the time, the money and the opportunity to mount full-fledged campaigns in both New York and Pennsylvania, states which are essential to any Democratic hope of retaking the White House. And in both states, his popularity declined the more he campaigned.

because I did not know the facts on this. At the same time, my counterpart in the House did know.

The president has asked us to back his foreign policy. Bill, how can we back his foreign policy when we don't know what the hell he is doing? Lebanon, yes, we all knew that he sent troops over there. But mine the harbors in Nicaragua? This is not an act violating international law. It is an act of war. For the life of me, I don't see how we are going to explain it.

My simple guess is that the House is going to defeat this supplemental (aid for El Salvador) and we will not be in any position to put up much of an argument after we were not given the information we were entitled to receive; particularly, if my memory serves me correctly, when you briefed us on Central America just a couple of weeks ago. And the order was signed before that.

I don't like this. I don't like it one bit from the president or from you. I don't think we need a lot of lengthy explanations. The deed has been done and, in the future, if anything like this happens, I'm going to raise one hell of a lot of fuss about it in public.

Sincerely,
Barry Goldwater, Chairman.

GOLDWATER

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ure out how I can most easily tell you my feelings about the discovery of the president having approved mining of some of the harbors of Central America.

It gets down to one, little, simple phrase: I am pissed off.

I understand that you had briefed the House on this matter. I've heard that. Now during the important debate we had last week and the week before, on whether we would increase funds for the Nicaragua program, we were doing all right until a member of the committee charged that the president had approved the mining. I strongly denied that because I have never heard of it. I found out the next day that the CIA had, with the written approval of the president, engaged in such mining, and the approval came in February!

Bill, this is no way to run a railroad, and I find myself in a hell of a quandary. I am forced to apologize to the members of the Intelligence Committee

RENT

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against the measure.

Tuesday's election marked the first test of political strength for the four council members since the incorporation vote June 7. The same four supported incorporation, which passed by a mere 15 votes.

Advocates of rent control perceived their opponents as the same group that battled cityhood — Wilks and absentee landlords.

"The people of East Palo Alto have said their city is not for sale," Mouton said, referring to the well-financed campaign waged by the landlords. "The people saw the representatives of the opposition at the polls today were not from East

Palo Alto."

The election result is "a victory of our community against big money," Councilman Abrica said. Protecting the community is the goal of the council, he said, and rent control will protect tenants from rising rents.

At past council meetings, Abrica vehemently protested that landlords were "making their profits off the backs of the poor."

Critics, especially Councilwoman Wilks, have assailed the pro-rent control council members for enacting a divisive ordinance so quickly after incorporation, warning the city needed to appease investors and fight crime first.

Councilwoman Wilks, contacted at home Tuesday night, stuck to her position that rent control is a "shortsighted" policy.

Wilks believes rent control will discourage investors and others who might help build a healthy tax base, leaving the city's bills for homeowners.

Edrick Haggans, chairman of the property rights committee, was unavailable for comment Tuesday night.

The ordinance itself consists of five major parts:

- Landlords are prohibited from raising rent more than the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index for residential housing.

- The seven-member Rent Stabilization Board, appointed by the City Council, is empowered to set rent ceilings, to hold hearings on evictions and to grant special price adjustments for rents upon individual requests from landlords.

work station, similar to a utility crews' "cherry picker," on the end of the arm.

Hart first maneuvered van Hoften on the end of the crane, positioning him in front of the 18-foot-tall Solar Max so he could remove a 4-foot-by-4-foot module containing a control system intended to point the satellite's instruments precisely at the sun.

"Move me about 6 inches to the right ... Roll me about 20 degrees left," van Hoften instructed. As he labored, he asked Hart to make sure his head didn't hit the satellite's solar panels. "Ox, you've got about a 6-inch clearance," Hart replied.

"It's kind of tricky," van Hoften said. But he said his tools "really work slick" and in about an hour he had removed the faulty module and replaced it with a new one. He used a power tool to extract and replace two large bolts that secure the unit to the satellite.

That completed the primary repair job. The rest was "frosting on the cake," according to the astronauts.

They paused to enjoy the panorama of space, Earth, moon and stars, calling the surroundings "breath-taking," the sunrise "just beautiful."

Van Hoften said the repair job was like working in the simulator on Earth, but "the view is a little unreal." With Challenger flying upside down, Nelson remarked: "I can look down and see the moon."

BALLOT

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six months ago.

Seventy percent of the voters approved the tax increase, which will be levied against property owners on a four-year graduated scale.

Supporters of the tax said it was necessary to finance police and other city services and avoid a \$750,000 budget deficit.

In November's election, only 61 percent of the voters approved a similar tax proposal.

In other Peninsula elections, voters made these decisions:

- In Los Altos Hills, Louise Dronkert, Nan Fuhrman and Richard Rydell, all longtime activists in civic affairs, were elected to the council for the first time. Three incumbents chose not to seek re-election, giving the city an almost-new council.

By a margin of better than 2-to-1, Los Altos Hills voters approved Measure B and rescinded a town law requiring residents to use flame-retardant materials when building new roofs or replacing old ones.

FTC

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even though the carmaking project had not won final approval.

In March, NUMMI mailed 5,000 letters soliciting job applications from former autoworkers who once kept the assembly lines rolling in a GM assembly plant at Fremont. The plant was transferred to NUMMI as part of the joint venture agreement, and is being renovated and expanded to play home to the new carmaking project.

NUMMI spokesman Thomas Klipstine said the firm plans to hire 3,000 workers and have Chevrolet subcompact cars rolling off the assembly line this December. Hiring is expected to begin in September.

Los Altos Hills voters turned out in the highest numbers in Santa Clara County with 34.2 percent of the city's voters going to the polls.

- Redwood City voters re-elected incumbents Bob Bury, Brenton Britschgi and William Stangel and former Councilman Gerald Chandler.

By a vote of 10 to 7, residents near Sequoia Hospital in Redwood City approved annexing their area to the city, so that Redwood Medical Clinic can expand and build a parking lot.

- Retired plumber Clarence Heppler was elected to the Mountain View City Council and incumbents Marilyn Perry, James Zesch and Patricia Figueroa were re-elected.

In a relatively high turnout for Mountain View, 24 percent of the city's registered voters cast ballots Tuesday.

- Incumbents Jane Reed and Roger Eng were re-elected to the Los Altos City Council, along with longtime civic activist Terry Cullinan.

Nearly 31 percent of the city's 19,000 voters turned out for the race.

Big celebration marks reopening of Big Sur route

BIG SUR (AP) — Highway 1, the scenic route closed by last year's massive rock and mudslide, was to be reopened during a civic-sponsored bash today — 50 years after the road was first opened in 1934.

Community leaders from Monterey to San Luis Obispo are hoping that word of the festivities, complete with a 52-foot-long cake and parades of vintage automobiles, will lure tourists back to the twisting scenic link between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Two processions of vintage cars — one heading south from the Monterey Peninsula and the other heading north from San Luis Obispo — are to meet at the slide site.