

RENO HAPPENINGS



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Vucanovich blasted on dump issue

Democratic congressional candidate Pete Sferrazza on Tuesday accused Rep. Barbara Vucanovich, R-Nev., of having a conflict of interest on the nuclear dump issue because of her financial ties to the nuclear energy industry.

Sferrazza, who is mayor of Reno, said his Republican opponent should return \$3,000 in campaign contributions from California utility companies and divest herself of holdings in nuclear industry stock "to remove the appearance of any impropriety."

"We need a congressman that is independent of the nuclear PACs (political action committees) on this key, sensitive issue," Sferrazza said at a McCarran

International Airport news conference. "What happens if she is re-elected and her pals from the nuclear industry want her vote? Will she vote for PACs or for people?"

Vucanovich's press secretary, Stephanie Hanna, said the two-term congressman "votes her conscience" and has in the past voted against the nuclear industry in the House.

"Her actions speak louder than his words," Hanna said. "She's never stopped disclosing sources of private income."

Hanna also said Vucanovich proved her opposition to the high-level nuclear waste repository in June when she introduced a bill to block the Department of Energy's research into Yucca Mountain as a possible dump site.

Sferrazza's attack was made only days after he leveled similar conflict of interest charges about Vucanovich's votes in Congress for a telephone rate increase. The mayor said his opponent's vote was influenced by her holdings in and contributions from telephone companies.

Sferrazza is considered a decided underdog in the race for the second congressional seat. Although the bulk of the district is in Northern Nevada, it also takes in North Las Vegas and the western fringes of Las Vegas and unincorporated Clark County.

Sferrazza also said he was exposing "a pattern that (Vucanovich) has of taking money from PACs and then voting their way."

If I were interested in avoiding the appearance of a conflict, then I certainly wouldn't invest," Sferrazza added.

At the news conference, Sferrazza presented a list of Vucanovich's contributions from nuclear industry PACs, which include \$2,000 for Southern California Edison, and \$250 each from Pacific Gas & Electric, Texas Utilities, Combustion Engineering and General Electric.

Sferrazza also said Vucanovich owns stock in Southern California Edison and General Electric, both of which are involved in the nuclear energy industry.

Court reporter ruling issued

CARSON CITY—The Nevada Supreme Court has determined that Clark County District Court reporters are not court employees.

Therefore, the ruling means that the county does not have to pay State Industrial Insurance System premiums for court reporters.

In a written opinion issued last week, the high court ruled the county has no authority over court reporters, although the county does pay court reporter fees.

In making the decision, the court said a State Industrial Insurance System appeal officer was incorrect in ordering the county to pay insurance system premiums.

Post-conviction hearing sought

CARSON CITY—The attorney for a man facing execution for the torture slaying of a pregnant Reno nurse urged an unsympathetic Supreme Court on Monday to grant his client a new post-conviction hearing.

Robert Bruce Lindsay contended that his client was not adequately defended before pleading guilty to the murder and being sentenced to death by a three-judge panel.

Cary Williams admitted the June 1982 stabbing death of Katherine Carlson, who was stabbed more than 50 times. Her body was found by her husband in their Reno home.

Washoe teachers accept increase

Washoe County School District teachers have accepted a 4.2 percent salary increase for the 1986-87 school year, the district's negotiator said Monday.

Mike Millerick, the district's administrator of employee relations, said the 4.2 percent offer was ratified by the 1,900 teachers Thursday. It is scheduled for consideration by the district's Board of Trustees this week.

In addition to the 4.2 percent wage increase, payment for increased insurance costs was part of the settlement, Millerick said.

Tax pleas win, lose

RENO—Sparks voters have overwhelmingly approved a tax increase to bolster the city's police and fire safety forces, while a similar measure in Reno apparently has failed by narrowest of margins.

Washoe County voters also gave three of their commissioners and the president of the state Board of Education chances to seek re-election in the general election.

Final, unofficial, figures from Tuesday's primary show Sparks voters voted 5,128-3,730 in favor of an 11.05-cent property tax increase to increase the safety forces and 5,468-3,417 for a \$1.39 million bond to improve fire protection facilities.

A 24.3-cent proposed hike in Reno failed by 18 votes, 10,280 in a favor to 10,298 against. It would have provided money for salaries and funding of the police and fire departments lost to declining city revenues.

Sparks voters also opened their pocketbooks for a \$1.8 million flood control bond issue and an additional \$465,000 street improvement issue, but said "no" to bond proposals for expanding a community center and upgrading the Shadow Mountain Park Barn facility.

School Board President Janice C. Clarke and Bradley Henson were the top vote-getters in their race and will advance to the general election. Ms. Clarke had 8,718 votes and Henson 4,327 to top No. 3 J. Paul "Jess" Howe with 2,388.

Former Washoe County Registrar of Voters Diane Cornwall topped incumbent Commissioner Jim King, 2,921-1,972 in their race. As the top two vote-getters, they will face off again in November.

Sheriff Vince Swinney easily out-distanced challenger Charles Sexton, 16,376-2,927, in that primary race and will meet unopposed Democrat Gary Nottingham in November.

N.A.A.C.P. meetings are held every First and Fourth Thursday of the month at 1100 East Eight Street (C.S.A. Building) Reno, Nv. N.A.A.C.P. On Top is aired on K.O.L.O. T.V. every Fourth Sunday at 11 A.M.

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