

Analysis Explains How to Win in School Elections

"The candidate with the best organization will win the election." These prophetic words by Mr. Ed Dunn, Student Cabinet sponsor, set the stage for a new style of school election. With students now voting precincts spotted around campus, instead of Period 2 classes as previously, it has now become necessary for the vote-getting nominee not only to spread his name around campus, but to get his supporters to the polls as well.

This semester 2,132 students registered to vote, of which 39% were 10th graders; 34% of the voters were 11th graders; and only 27% were seniors; A near equal number of boys and girls registered.

But both in the primary and final election, 60% of the voters turned out to be girls, and only one in three of all those registered actually voted. Also interesting is that more 12th graders voted than either of the other two grade levels. It's possible that the lower classmen either weren't interested, or weren't fully informed about the candidates.

To win, Margaret Frey, Student Body President-elect, carried 8 of the 10 precincts. 75% of her votes came from girls. Her opponent, Steve Snyder, had his greatest strength in the 11th grade which he carried by a 2 to 1 ratio. Ironically enough, Steve led in the primary, but 76% of those who voted for the two other defeated candidates wound up voting for Margaret in the finals. A logical conclusion is that those who voted for him, stuck with him, but those who voted for Bob Underhill and Steve Sillman wanted Margaret as a second choice. She also carried every single senior precinct.

In the race for Executive Vice President, the winner, Steve Wasserman, carried the 10th grade while his opponent, Gary

Mussell, had solid 11th grade backing. In the primary, the seniors split between Wasserman, Harland Moidel, and Jon Lee. But the 12th grade supported Steve in the finals, and this swung the election to him.

To become Girls League President, Judy Gaines won every precinct but one. Her support was fairly constant at all grade levels, although her victory margin was much slimmer than in the two previously mentioned contests.

Patti Meyer, the defeated candidate, received her support mostly from girls. However, since as many girls voted for Judy, and she also got 70% of the boys' votes, this gave Judy the election.

In conclusion, the "magic" school election formula for winning seems to rest on seniors, girls, and luck.

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Note: This election analysis story by Gary Mussell won the Best Feature Article Award among student newspapers in the West Valley for 1966. (Yes, it was weird writing about myself in the third person!)