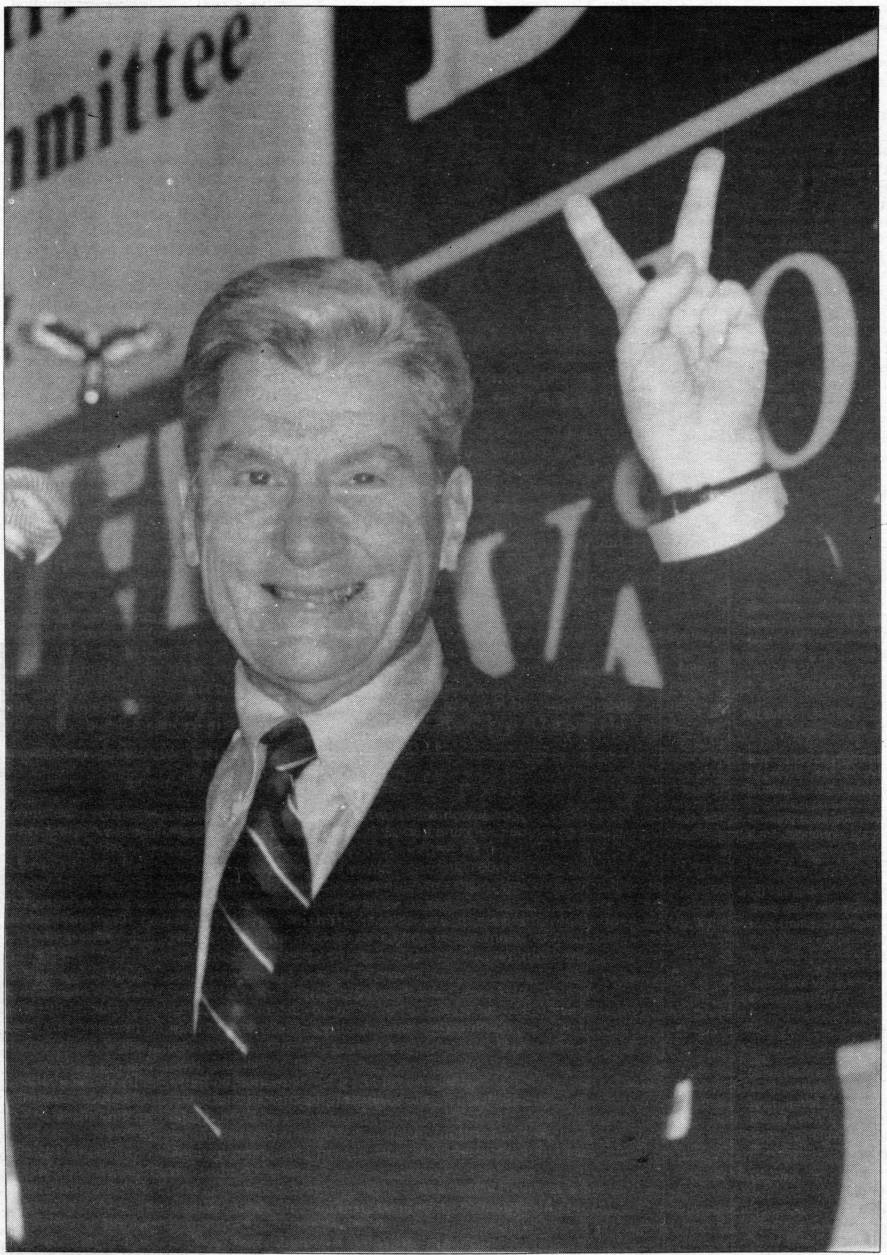
The senator survives



Paul Whelan/Commonwealth Times

Virginians return John Warner to Congress;

Bill Clinton wins re-election in landslide

DECISION '96

Clinton cans Dole, wins second term

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Clinton has won re-election and political redemption as voters brushed aside Bob Dole's challenge to his leadership and character.

"They have affirmed our cause and told us to go forward," Clinton said of the voters who returned him to office. "... The journey is not done. We still have work to do."

In conceding the race, Dole said he wished Clinton well and pledged his support.

As of 1:30 a.m. Wednesday, Clinton had won at least 31 states and the District of Columbia. He had 373 electoral votes — much past the 270 needed. With more than three-fourths of the nation's precincts reporting, Democrat Clinton had 50 percent of the popular vote, Republican Dole had 42 percent and Reform Party candidate Ross Perot had 8 percent.

In conceding the race — and ending his political career — Dole surrendered the Republican Party to the next generation with the hope "that we will meet again and meet often."

It was a simple goodbye to a half-century in public service.

"It hurts to lose," Dole said.

But he spoke out to the generations of Republicans after him: "Stay involved and keep fighting the good fight because you are the ones who will make the 21st century the next American century."

During his victory speech Clinton recognized his challenger's long Senate tenure.

"I thank Bob Dole for the work we did together," Clinton said. "... I wish him well and godspeed."

He also recalled late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown as "my friend and brother who is also looking down and smiling tonight."

In Dallas, Reform candidate Ross Perot conceded the election but vowed not to give up.

"Take a little break and then we'll climb back in the ring," he exhorted supporters.

The Texas billionaire drew about 8 percent of the vote, below the 19.3 percent he received in 1992.

It is enough for his party to receive federal campaign funds four years from now but falls short of the 25 percent needed to be officially identified as a major political party.

Meanwhile, Republicans have held their control of the Senate, laying claim to seats once owned by Democrats in Alabama, Nebraska and Arkansas.

Majority Leader Trent Lott pledged a fresh effort to cut taxes and shrink government.

Republican Sens. Jesse Helms triumphed in North Carolina and Strom Thurmond coasted to a new term in South Carolina at age 93. Massachusetts Democrat Sen. John Kerry prevailed over Gov. William Weld.

Republicans are likely to retain control of the House, gaining the GOP's first such back-to-back majorities in 66 years, according to a projection by Voter News Service, a consortium of The Associated Press and five TV networks.

Democrats made inroads into GOP House Speaker Newt Gingrich's Republican majority, but the GOP cut its losses by taking seats vacated by Democrats. Both Gingrich of Georgia and House Democratic leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri easily won re-election. Democrats won 11 seats previously held by Republicans. Republicans defeated two incumbents and picked up eight open Democratic seats, but the Democrats successfully defended many more.

Other election highlights:

• Democrats have elected the country's first Chinese-American governor in Washington state and the first female governor in New Hampshire. Democrats won seven of the 11 governors' races and Republicans won four. All seven incumbents were easily re-elected — Republicans in North Dakota, Montana and Utah, and Democrats in Vermont, Missouri, Delaware and North Carolina. West Virginia Republicans elected the state's oldest governor — who four decades ago was the state's youngest: Cecil Underwood celebrated his 74th birthday by defeating Democrat Charlotte Pritt.

• Californians have moved decisively to dismantle state affirmative action programs, passing a ballot measure that bans racial and sex preferences in public hiring, contracting and education. Early returns showed overwhelming support for the hotly debated Proposition 209. With 9 percent of the vote counted, the measure was leading 64 percent to 36 percent. As always, the results in the nation's most populous state were certain to shape the national debate.

• Pot smokers lit celebratory joints as California voters resoundingly approved a ballot measure to allow sick and dying people to grow, possess and use marijuana to help ease their pain. An exit poll conducted by the Voter News Service showed Proposition 215 passing by a wide margin. Opponents said the battle was far from over and vowed a court fight. Arizona agreed to allow doctors to prescribe marijuana for seriously ill patients.

• NASCAR legend Richard Petty lost to Democrat Elaine Marshall in the race for North Carolina's secretary of state. Marshall becomes the first woman ever elected to the post. With 51 percent of precincts reporting, Marshall had taken 55 percent of the vote compared to 44 percent for Petty, according to unofficial returns.

Democrats see victory in M. Warner's defeat

Scott Bass
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Even during Democratic Senate challenger Mark R. Warner's premature concession speech around 10:30 last night, a group of about 50 local Democrats at the Democratic Party of Virginia's headquarters jolted with optimistic though stagnant cheers.

They would have been satisfied if their Democratic underdog came within 10 percentage points of incumbent Sen. John W. Warner, much less a dead heat with 82 percent of the state's precincts reporting.

Although the race eventually closed out with John Warner pulling 53 percent of the vote, the younger Mark nipped uncomfortably close to the incumbent's heels.

"It's clear that he not only struck the lion, he may have taken him down," quipped a surprised Delegate Franklin P. Hall, D-Richmond, just after the 50-50 split was reported.

It was said that the worst day in Mark Warner's campaign came when the state's Republican Party nominated three-term Sen. John Warner as its candidate, despite heavy feuding between moderate and Christian conservatives over the Virginia grandaddy's refusal to support Republican Senate candidate Oliver L. North in 1994 and Republican lieutenant governor candidate Michael Farris a year earlier.

"This was the hardest, hardest challenge of my life," a smiling Mark Warner conceded to the Omni Hotel suite via television.

"And I believe ya," a woman beckoned from the belly of the crowd. Jovial and burying no hatchet, Mark Warner's supporters sensed a greater purpose at hand.

Mark Warner never may have anticipated jumping into a race he was given no chance of winning. The senior senator consistently has been dubbed the most popular politician in the state, and most political analysts say Mark Warner's doomed campaign — on which he spent more than $10 million — was a rite of political passage.

Hall said Mark Warner's failed bid already answered a higher calling.

"He has been introduced to the commonwealth as a hardworking ... candidate that ran one hell of a race," he said, adding that as the state's Democratic Party chairman Mark Warner played a major role in stemming a national tide that nearly put a Republican majority in at least one chamber of the state legislature in 1995.

"He did the same thing tonight."

Local Democrats already were pointing to the future — most notably next year's probable gubernatorial race between Virginia Attorney General James S. Gilmore III and Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer Jr.

Although the significance of Mark Warner's late-campaign surge still remains to be seen, most see the next big test as a likely Beyer-Gilmore gubernatorial race this time next year.

"I think it means we'll have a good chance of getting the governorship back with the numbers of Democrats out voting today," Delegate Dwight C. Jones, D-Richmond, said of the younger Warner's unexpected showing.

State Sen. Donald McEachin, D-Richmond, agreed.

"I think a year from now we'll be talking about the beginning of the Beyer era," McEachin said. "I don't see anything changing within a year."

Hidden in the sleepy cracks of the particularly lackluster state Democratic headquarters at the Omni Hotel was a sense of the Democratic Party gaining credibility in dominantly Republican Virginia.

"I think the Democrats still have some say in the state of Virginia," said former Richmond Police Chief Marty Tapscott.

Other local figures said the strong Democratic showing revealed a changing political tide.

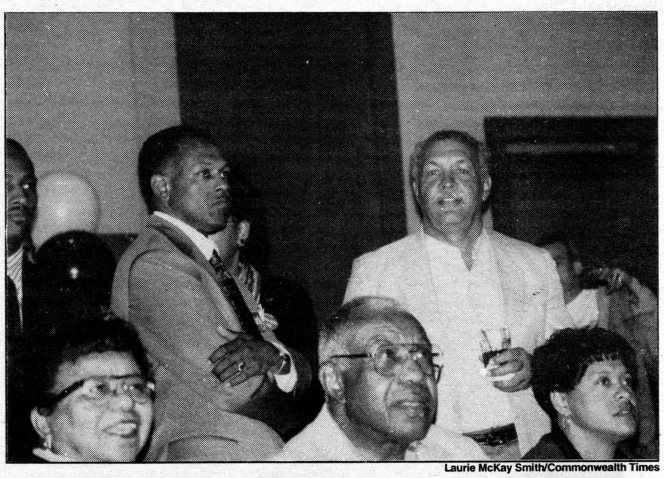
"The mood of the state is saying the Republicans are on the way out," said Richmond Councilwoman Viola Baskerville.

While maybe a tad premature, Mark Warner's unexpectedly strong showing came only a year after Democrats rejected Gov. George Allen's call to replace the General Assembly's Democratic majority with his Republican siblings.

And the previous year, as Republicans gained a majority in both houses of Congress, Virginia stayed Democratic, re-electing Sen. Charles S. Robb and dumping the Republican Party's poster candidate, Iran-Contra figure Oliver L. North.

Hall says it's merely a sign of both parties moving toward the center. The two competing Warners may have differed on a handful of typical party-line issues, but they stood similar ground on welfare reform, regulation of tobacco, gun control and passing a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

"The (voters) rejected the extreme on both sides of the cannon," Hall said. "We want people to make things happen."



Laurie McKay Smith/Commonwealth Times

Del. Dwight C. Jones of Richmond stands with former city police chief Marty Tapscott at Democratic headquarters.

DECISION '96

J. Warner wins 4th term

Paul Whelan
CT News Editor

The only certainty on this Election Day was that Virginia was going to have a Warner in the Senate. But which Warner?

Less than three hours after the polls closed in Virginia, Sen. John W. Warner claimed victory at his campaign headquarters in Falls Church.

Warner's decision to proceed with the victory speech came after the three networks declared him the winner. It also followed shortly after his opponent, Mark Warner, called to conceed the race.

Warner's press secretary, Eric Peterson, said the senator also received a phone call from former President George H. Bush, who called around 9 p.m. to congratulate Warner.

Warner won a fourth term with 53 percent of the vote. By the time 98 percent of the precincts had reported he had received 1,198,961 votes compared to Mark Warner's 1,081,210.

The senior senator, who was first elected to the Senate in 1978, took the stage at the Fairview Marriott with an entourage of Republican notables including Gov. George Allen, Attorney General James S. Gilmore III and J. Randy Forbes, chairman of the Republican Party of Virginia.

"One of the great rewards of being in Virginia politics and the Republican Party," Warner said, "has been to campaign by the side of our great attorney general and to have supported our new party chairman.

"And most of all ... I take full credit for giving George Allen all the advice he needed (to become governor)."

Overall, the Virginia GOP had reason to celebrate. It had re-elected Warner, and presidential candidate Bob Dole won Virginia maintaining a string of Republican presidential wins in Virginia dating back to after former President Lyndon B. Johnson.

"It's a great night because once again Virginians have said that the record is important, that character counts," Gilmore said. "Virginians have said it's important to look to the future, and when they thought about the future they thought about a man like Bob Dole."

The successful evening had Virginia Republicans giddy with optimism. Some were teasing Gov. Allen, calling him "Senator" Allen.

"Now there are a right many people here tonight who've said we want you to run for this, that or another," Allen said. "And it's very nice, but that decision will be made at a later time.

"You pay attention to the nail that you're hammering in at the time, not something 4 feet down the board."

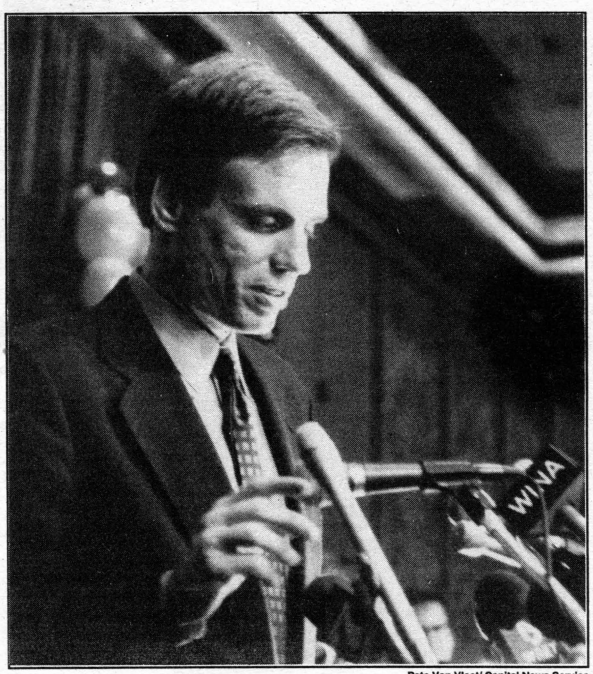
Mark Warner's relatively early concession came as little surprise since throughout the race John Warner has enjoyed a comfortable lead in the polls. In fact, the senior senator's lead seemed impenetrable.

Months earlier the senator's campaign seemed unscathed by a scandal concerning a campaign advertisement with a doctored photograph of Mark Warner. As recent as last weekend, the campaign hit another

J. WARNER *continued to page 8*

Paul Whelan/Commonwealth Times

Sen. John Warner addresses supporters at GOP headquarters in Northern Virginia.



Pete Van Vleet/ Capital News Service

Mark Warner pauses during his concession speech last night in Alexandria.

Close but no cigar for Mark

Jack Southworth
CT Staff Writer

Democratic challenger Mark R. Warner nearly pulled off the biggest Virginia political upset in recent years Tuesday night, narrowly losing his bid to unseat incumbent Sen. John W. Warner.

"Mark (Warner) gave John Warner the race of his political life," said Susan Wrenn, the chairwoman of the Democratic Party of Virginia.

John Warner received 53 percent of the vote, while Mark Warner garnered 47 percent.

"If (Mark Warner) was running against anybody but the state's most popular politician, he would be the winner," said Donald S. Beyer Jr., Virginia's lieutenant governor, before the final tally was known. "If he loses and the race is close, the margin of difference will be John Warner standing up against Oliver North."

Mark Warner began his concession speech shortly before 10:30 p.m. from his election night headquarters at the Radisson Mark Plaza in Alexandria.

Amid his speech word quickly spread through the ballroom that John Warner's 6-percentage-point lead had been erased. A few shouts from the crowd interrupted the candidate, but he finished his speech.

Mark Warner later said that he had heard during the day of exit polls as close as two points.

"We felt we had all the momentum going into the last few days of the race," he said. "But I am not surprised (at the numbers)."

Charles S. Robb, the Democratic senator from Virginia also said he was not surprised that the race was close.

"I suggested that the race for the Senate and the race for the president in Virginia would be very close," he said.

But in reality John Warner's lead had not been erased. Errors in election reporting for Fairfax County made the race seem closer than it really was.

"There is some seesawing in Fairfax," said Bert Rohrer, communications director of the state Democratic Party. "We want to look at some real numbers."

Mark Warner was attacked by many Republicans for using $10 million of his own money to help finance his campaign. Both he and John Warner support voluntary spending limits including limits on the amount a candidate may give to his own campaign.

"Mark can say that he made every dollar that he spent on his campaign himself," Robb said. "He's proud of it. He doesn't hide from it."

Mark Warner made his fortune as the founder of MRW Enterprises, a cellular phone consulting company that later became Columbia Capital Corp.

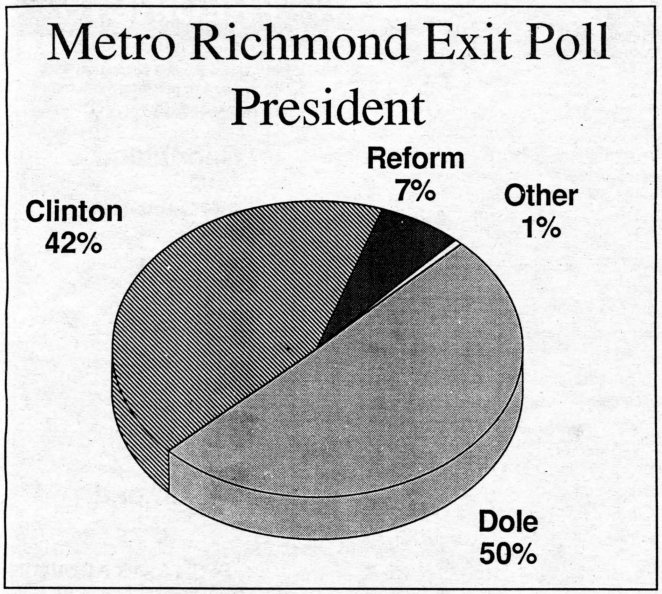
"Certainly he put the resources in it," Robb said. "But he backed it up with a credible candidacy of his own."

On stage at his election night headquarters, Mark Warner addressed his contributions.

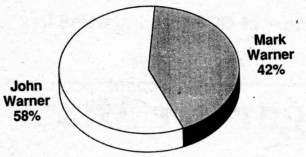
M. WARNER *continued to page 8*

DECISION '96

Exit polls reflected



Goochland County



Jimmy Carter won Goochland County in 1976 — the last time a Democratic presidential candidate won in the county. According to the results of the Capital News Service exit poll of three precincts in the county, it will be the 21st century before another Democrat running for president will win.

And Republican John Warner was also the favorite of those polled in Goochland, easily outdistancing Democrat Mark Warner in the Republican-friendly rural county.

Of the 235 people who responded to the poll, about 150 people (about 64 percent) said they voted for Dole while about 75 (about 32 percent) said they voted for President Clinton. Ten people (about 4 percent) said they voted for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

Of 231 people who responded to the Senate race, 133 (about 58 percent) said they opted for John Warner while 98 (about 42 percent) favored Mark Warner.

Of the Dole supporters, 77 were female and 73 were male. Clinton's supporters included 44 females and 31 males.

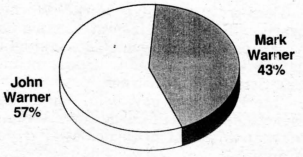
Of John Warner's supporters, 68 were male and 65 were female. Mark Warner tallied 56 female votes from those polled and 42 males.

Many said they voted the Republican ticket because they were conservative. Others questioned President Clinton's honesty and even suggested he is a criminal.

"I want someone with integrity in the White House," said one 60-year-old white male. "It's time we put Clinton in jail."

As for why he chose John Warner, one voter pointed to 1994 Republican Senate candidate Oliver North. "John Warner's the best candidate because he opposed Ollie North," said Josh Rowe.

Chesterfield County



Unsurprisingly, traditionally Republican-leaning Chesterfield County supported challenger Bob Dole for president and incumbent John Warner for the U.S. Senate.

Of the 171 people who responded to the Capital News Service exit poll of three precincts, 94 people (about 55 percent) said they voted for Dole while 67 (about 39 percent) said they voted for President Clinton. Nine people (about 5 percent) said they opted for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

Of those who said they voted for Dole, 58 were female and 36 were male. Thirty-nine females opted for Clinton as did 28 males.

John Warner was the choice of 98 people (about 57 percent) while 73 said they chose Democrat Mark Warner (42 percent).

Fifty-six of J. Warner's supporters were female and 42 were male. Mark Warner was the choice for 44 females and 32 males.

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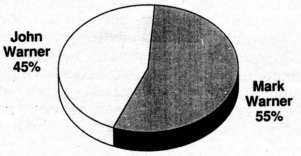
"I like (Dole's) positions better than Clinton," said Georgia Utt of Chesterfield. "I like John Warner's as well." Said Kendall Miller, "We need a change as far as Clinton is concerned."

Others said they thought Clinton had done a good job in his first term and added that they thought the economy has been strong under his administration.

"I voted for Clinton because I think he's done a good job," said Chesterfield resident Frances Nagie.

One 30-year-old white male said he voted for John Warner because of his record. "John Warner has a record of achievement," he said. "Mark Warner doesn't have that. Also, the area I live in (Midlothian) has been traditionally Republican."

Hanover County



In 1992, Hanover County overwhelmingly supported President George Bush. In 1994, Republican Oliver North was the choice for the U.S. Senate.

When Jim Miller challenged John Warner for the Republican Senate primary last May, Hanover was one of the few localities that opted for Miller — a backlash for the senator's refusal to support fellow Republican North in 1994, political experts said.

So, one would expect Hanover to show extremely strong Republican support.

But voters in that county surprisingly showed some leaning toward the Democratic Party during yesterday's election, according to the Capital News Service exit poll of three precincts.

Of the 230 voters who responded to the poll, about 49 percent (113) said they voted for Dole while 40 percent (92) said they voted for President Clinton. About 10 percent (24) said they voted for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

But Democrat Mark Warner was favored by more Hanoverians than the incumbent Republican.

Of 229 people who responded, 126 (about 55 percent) said they voted for the Democrat while 103 (about 45 percent) said they chose John Warner.

Of the Dole supporters, 64 were male and 49 were female.

And 54 of Clinton's supporters were female and 38 were male.

For Mark Warner, 68 were female and 58 were male.

John Warner's supporters numbered 60 males and 43 females.

As to why such a GOP stronghold as Hanover County — where all five members of its Board of Supervisors and its General Assembly delegation are Republicans — would lean toward Democratic candidates, several people cited varying reasons.

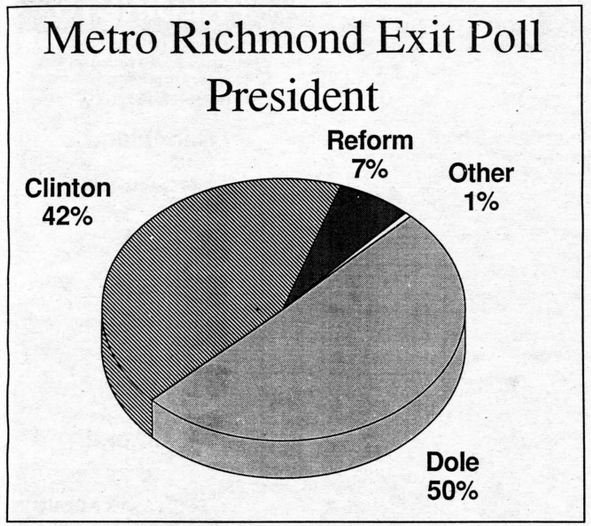
"There is a tremendous migration of 'yippies' in Hanover," said a 45-year-old white Chesterfield male who said he was born and raised in Hanover. "The new generation represents the wanted change in the county."

One white male voter in the Mechanicsville precinct said he chose to vote for Clinton because of his record.

"I usually vote for Republicans," Brian Lowery said. "But Clinton has done a good job."

A Capital News Service pollster interviews Diane Bishop as her son looks on at Henrico County's Moody Middle School precinct.

DECISION '96



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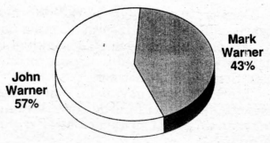

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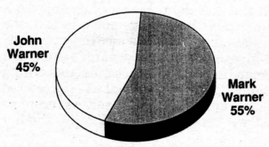

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A Capital News Service pollster interviews Diane Bishop as her son looks on at Henrico County's Moody Middle School precinct.

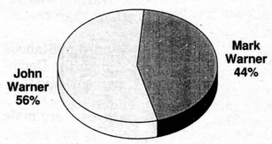
DECISION '96

ight outcome of Senate race

Said another frustrated male voter: "John Warner has been in there too long. ... I wrote to John Warner and he never responded."

Others said that even though they chose Dole, they opted for Mark Warner because of John Warner's refusal to support North in 1994.

Henrico County



Henrico County voters, like their neighbors to the south (Chesterfield), north (Hanover) and west (Goochland), are staunch Republican supporters. And yesterday's election was no different, according to a Capital News Service exit poll of three precincts.

Of 118 who responded to the poll, about 62 people (about 52.5 percent) said they voted for Dole while about 42 (about 35.6 percent) said they voted for Clinton. Another 13 (about 11 percent) said they voted for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

Republican incumbent Sen. John Warner also held off a challenge from Democrat Mark Warner. Of 117 who responded to the poll, 65 people (about 56 percent) said they sided with J. Warner while 52 people (about 44 percent) opted for Mark Warner.

Of the those who said they voted for Dole, 34 were female and 28 were male. Of the Clinton supporters, 28 were female and 16 were male. Among John Warner supporters, 35 were female and 30 were male. Mark Warner supporters numbered 28 females and 24 males.

Citing what he described as Clinton's questionable record as a president, one western Henrico voter said he supported Dole because he wanted integrity restored in the White House.

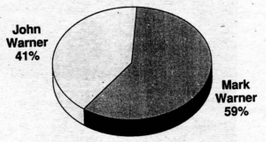
"Dole and the Republicans win on character issues," Brian Roberts said, adding that Dole's military record was another reason he voted for the former Kansas senator.

A Perot supporter said he voted for the Texas millionaire because he "wants change."

And although John Warner did very well with most voters, he still had his detractors.

"John Warner is a liar and has gone back on his word," said one elderly female, referring to the senator's refusal to back Republican candidate Oliver North in 1994.

Richmond



Richmond residents delivered their traditional Democratic votes this Election Day for candidates Mark Warner and President Clinton.

Voters — whether white, male, female or African American _ turned out in force for the Democrats, according to Capital News Service exit polls conducted with 206 voters at three city voting places.

Mark Warner received 59 percent of the Richmond vote while Clinton received 68 percent.

"Clinton's had an excellent record in the past four years," said Eugene Huang of Richmond, after voting at the Franklin Street public library. He cited Clinton's record on the environment, education and abortion rights.

Though the vote showed an apparent gender gap — with women preferring Clinton and Mark Warner by a slight but significant margin — the greatest division was by race.

Republican candidate Bob Dole received the smallest portion of Richmonders' votes.

African-American Richmonders snubbed the former senator with 1.5 percent of the vote.

White voters gave him 33 percent, according to the poll.

Sen. John Warner, though successful statewide, had no support from black voters in the city's East End and downtown regions, garnering just 2.5 percent in the poll.

In the traditionally conservative and primarily white West End the incumbent senator received a warmer welcome with 26 percent of the vote.

That result, however, fell far short of the 53 percent he received statewide.

PRECINCTS

Capital News Service conducted 995 Election Day exit poll interviews from these county and city precincts.

Goochland

Goochland Courthouse
Centerville
Manakin

Hanover

Mechanicsville
Ashland
Montpelier

Richmond

East End
Social Service Center
Westhampton
Baptist Church
Franklin Street Library

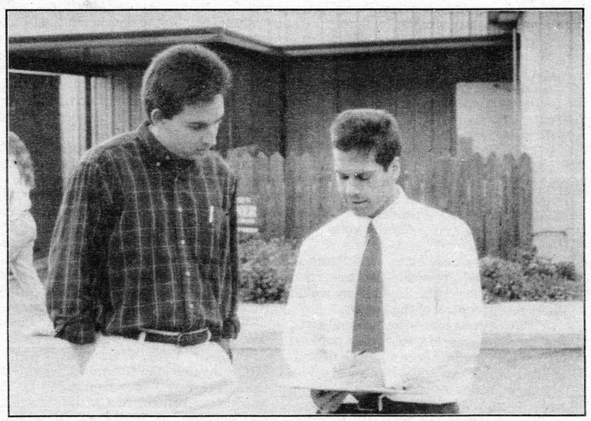
Henrico

Derbyshire
Highland Springs
High School
Moody Middle School

Chesterfield

Bon Air Community Center
Manchester Middle School

Retha Connaway answers exit poll questions from a Capital News Service pollster at the Goochland Courthouse precinct.



A Capital News Service pollster conducts an exit interview with a Mechanicsville precinct voter.

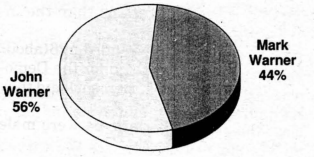
DECISION '96

ight outcome of Senate race

Said another frustrated male voter: "John Warner has been in there too long. ... I wrote to John Warner and he never responded."

Others said that even though they chose Dole, they opted for Mark Warner because of John Warner's refusal to support North in 1994.

Henrico County



Henrico County voters, like their neighbors to the south (Chesterfield), north (Hanover) and west (Goochland), are staunch Republican supporters. And yesterday's election was no different, according to a Capital News Service exit poll of three precincts.

Of 118 who responded to the poll, about 62 people (about 52.5 percent) said they voted for Dole while about 42 (about 35.6 percent) said they voted for Clinton. Another 13 (about 11 percent) said they voted for Reform Party candidate Ross Perot.

Republican incumbent Sen. John Warner also held off a challenge from Democrat Mark Warner. Of 117 who responded to the poll, 65 people (about 56 percent) said they sided with J. Warner while 52 people (about 44 percent) opted for Mark Warner.

Of the those who said they voted for Dole, 34 were female and 28 were male. Of the Clinton supporters, 28 were female and 16 were male. Among John Warner supporters, 35 were female and 30 were male. Mark Warner supporters numbered 28 females and 24 males.

Citing what he described as Clinton's questionable record as a president, one western Henrico voter said he supported Dole because he wanted integrity restored in the White House.

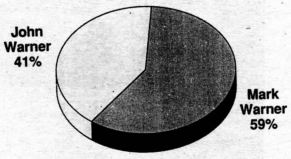
"Dole and the Republicans win on character issues," Brian Roberts said, adding that Dole's military record was another reason he voted for the former Kansas senator.

A Perot supporter said he voted for the Texas millionaire because he "wants change."

And although John Warner did very well with most voters, he still had his detractors.

"John Warner is a liar and has gone back on his word," said one elderly female, referring to the senator's refusal to back Republican candidate Oliver North in 1994.

Richmond



Richmond residents delivered their traditional Democratic votes this Election Day for candidates Mark Warner and President Clinton.

Voters — whether white, male, female or African American _ turned out in force for the Democrats, according to Capital News Service exit polls conducted with 206 voters at three city voting places.

Mark Warner received 59 percent of the Richmond vote while Clinton received 68 percent.

"Clinton's had an excellent record in the past four years," said Eugene Huang of Richmond, after voting at the Franklin Street public library. He cited Clinton's record on the environment, education and abortion rights.

Though the vote showed an apparent gender gap — with women preferring Clinton and Mark Warner by a slight but significant margin — the greatest division was by race.

Republican candidate Bob Dole received the smallest portion of Richmonders' votes.

African-American Richmonders snubbed the former senator with 1.5 percent of the vote.

White voters gave him 33 percent, according to the poll.

Sen. John Warner, though successful statewide, had no support from black voters in the city's East End and downtown regions, garnering just 2.5 percent in the poll.

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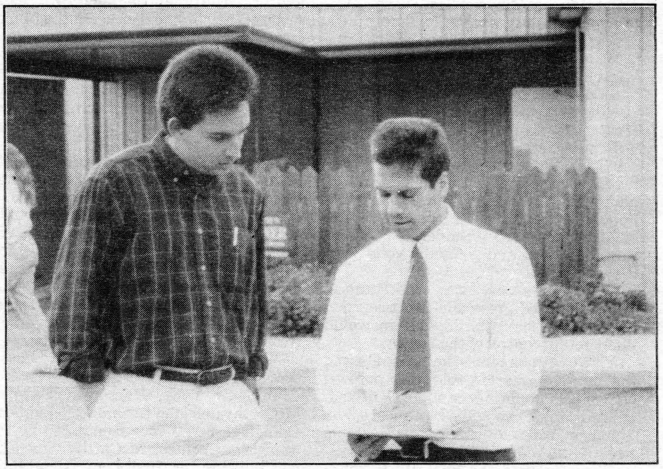


A Capital News Service pollster conducts an exit interview with a Mechanicsville precinct voter.

DECISION '96

Senator wins two-year battle

Coveh Solaimani
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FALLS CHURCH—Facing his toughest battle since winning election to the U.S. Senate in 1978, Republican John W. Warner narrowly defeated Democratic challenger Mark R. Warner.

"I learned a lot from this campaign and I say that with all sincerity," the Republican senator said in giving his victory speech at the Fairview Marriott in Falls Church. "It was a tough, tough two years. I emerged from it a much stronger senator.

"I fear no challenge, I fear no challenge to lead Virginia into the next century."

Showing a double-digit lead as late as a week ago, the 18-year-incumbent was expected to win easily.

But Mark R. Warner never relented. GOP Chairman Randy Forbes said the Democrat used his personal wealth estimated at $100 million and his state-record spending to help make this a close campaign.

Gov. George Allen said the senator's win was one based on values and praised his leadership in the senate.

"It was a hard-fought campaign," Allen said. "John Warner's victory shows that in Virginia ideas, principles and character still count." John Warner said winning re-election was very gratifying because of all the obstacles in his path.

Following easy victories in 1984 and again in 1990, the incumbent not only had to battle Mark Warner, the senator also had to fight for his party's nomination.

The incumbent angered the GOP by not supporting Mike Farris' bid for lieutenant governor in 1993 and Oliver L. North's attempt for the U.S. Senate seat in 1994.

The previous Republican Party Chairman Patrick M. McSweeney labeled John Warner a traitor, and former Reagan budget director James C. Miller III opposed the 18-year-incumbent vigorously for the GOP's bid at the party's convention in June.

At that convention, Miller outdistanced John Warner in a mock election. But, the senator who did not attend the convention continued to fight and defeated Miller in the Republican primary by a landslide.

After being anointed the winner by the networks and The Associated Press on Tuesday, the senator had one more obstacle: near-miraculous comeback by Mark Warner.

The incumbent saw his lead fall from 6 percentage points to nearly even. This decrease in margin was a mirage, however, as a Fairfax County precinct tabulated the ballots incorrectly.

After overcoming Miller, strife within his own party, Mark Warner and an unusual ballot mixup, the senator gave himself a new nickname to characterize the battle of the last two years.

"I need a new name. After this campaign I have a new name. ... My new name for the future is That Salty Survivor," said John Warner of the name that refers to his past in the Navy and in being victorious again.

With another term under his belt, the 69-year-old senator said he will be back to work in his office tomorrow.

"(My) first priority is to keep America strong in terms of our national security and economics," he said. "We're in a one-world market."

And on the chances of running again, the senator began as if he would say this was his last campaign before relenting.

"I'll answer that question in four years," he said, "and until that time I'll apply myself to the Senate."

GOP maintains control of House

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats made modest inroads Tuesday in Speaker Newt Gingrich's Republican majority in the House, but the GOP partly offset its losses by capturing Southern seats vacated by veteran Democrats.

Republicans were poised to capture their first back-to-back majorities in 66 years.

"It looks like we will almost certainly keep control of the U.S. House," Gingrich told a cheering crowd in suburban Atlanta. He said the two sides were "in the process of swapping seats."

Republicans won or were leading in 227 districts; Democrats had won or were leading for 207 seats, which would be a gain of nine seats. The current House split is 236 Republicans and 198 Democrats. The only independent, Bernard Sanders of Vermont, won re-election and generally votes with the Democrats.

Voter News Service, a consortium of The Associated Press and five television networks, projected the Republicans would likely retain control of the House.

VNS exit polls across the nation showed that by a 51-45 margin, voters disapproved of Congress' performance under GOP leadership the past two years. By almost a 2-to-1 margin, those interviewed expressed a negative view of Gingrich.

"We cemented the majority tonight," said Rep. Bill Paxon, R-N.Y., chairman of the party's House campaign committee. "We will hold the House for the foreseeable future."

Democrats won 12 seats previously held by Republicans, six of them freshmen and five targeted by organized labor's expensive television ad campaign.

Republicans defeated two incumbents and picked up nine open Democratic seats, seven of them in the South, but the Democrats successfully defended many more.

Indianapolis voters picked their first black representative, local township trustee Julia Carson, to keep Democratic control of the hotly contested seat of retiring Democrat Andy Jacobs with extensive help from organized labor.

Democrats needed a net gain of 18 seats to take control of the chamber and pinned their hopes on toppling GOP freshmen.

In North Carolina, freshmen Republicans Fred Heineman and David Funderburk, who rode into office behind Gingrich's "Contract With America" campaign in 1994, were turned out by Democrats David Price, a former congressman, and Bobby Etheridge. And in New Jersey, freshman Bill Martini lost to Democrat

William Pascrell, the mayor of Paterson.

In New York, Democrat Carolyn McCarthy defeated freshman Republican DanielFrisa in a race dominated by the issue of gun control. McCarthy's husband was killed in the 1993 Long Island Railroad massacre, and she took on Frisa after he voted to repeal a ban on assault weapons.

M. Warner: A star is born

Terry Scanlon
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

ALEXANDRIA—A heavyweight may have emerged onto the Virginia political scene Tuesday night as Democratic challenger Mark R. Warner gave incumbent Sen. John W. Warner a run for his money that most observers didn't think was possible.

Mark Warner, a telecommunications tycoon from Alexandria, had been left for dead by most political analysts long before Labor Day.

After starting his campaign many months ago facing a seemingly insurmountable challenge, he was able to draw within 6 percentage points of the man considered by many to be the state's most popular politician.

Many saw Mark Warner as nothing more than a wealthy party official running as just another token opponent against a man the Democrats had not seriously challenged in 18 years.

"No one in either party's political establishment gave us a chance to win, and we just kept at it," Mark Warner said.

Republicans accused the Democrat of trying to buy the senate seat by pouring almost $10 million of his own money into his campaign.

Democrats praised him for his willingness to take on a challenge considered by many to be unattainable.

"Clearly he put the resources in it," Sen. Charles S. Robb said, "but he backed it up with a credible candidacy of his own."

John Warner's opposition to the candidacy of Republican nominee Oliver L. North two years ago gained the respect of many Democratic voters and that act ultimately took votes away from Mark Warner.

Robb said the Republican primary in June, in which Warner easily defeated James C. Miller III, not only made it difficult for Democrats to peg him as right-wing but also reminded voters why they like John Warner.

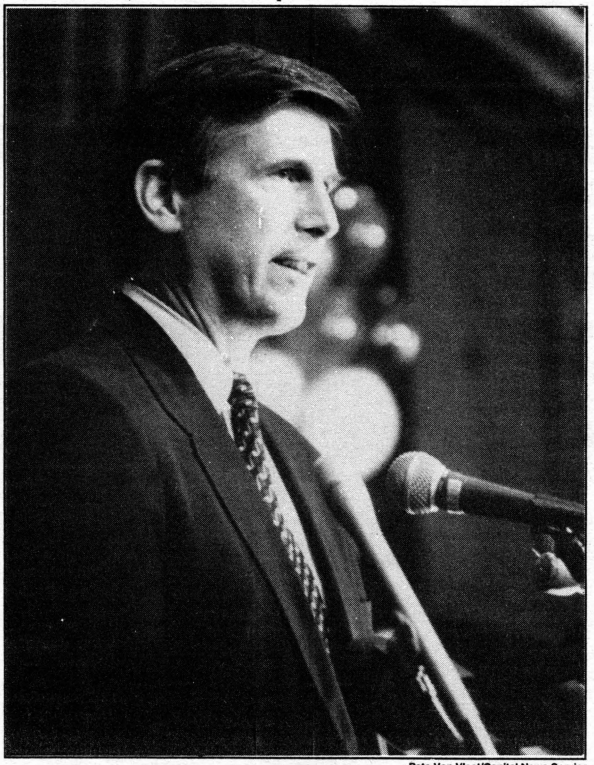
"The fact that he was taken on in his own party the way he was, brought the principled position he had taken two years earlier back to the forefront of the minds of the electorate that ultimately made it possible for him to withstand a challenge from an otherwise formidable challenger," Robb said.

Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer Jr., the likely Democratic gubernatorial nominee next year, said Mark Warner's campaigning across the state for the past year has helped his name recognition statewide and helped close the gap in the polls.

"We can't underestimate the value of grass-roots campaigning and the value of going place to place again and again," he said.

Mark Warner's impressive showing had many party officials talking about a continued career in politics.

"He's young. He's wealthy. He's ambitious. He's smart," said Sen. Joseph V. Gartlan Jr., D-Fairfax. "I think his future is unlimited."



Pete Van Vleet/Capital News Service

THE NEXT GOVERNOR? — Lt. Gov. Donlad S. Beyer Jr. speaks on behalf of Mark Warner last night.

DECISION '96

Mood swings jolt crowd; outcome remains the same

Pete Van Vleet
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

ALEXANDRIA — Like the fans of an underdog fighter cheering for their rookie as he squares off against the champ, the mood in Mark Warner's headquarters in Alexandria was that of impending doom. Waiting for the inevitable, hoping for the impossible only to smell a victory before reality set in.

The race was all but over, as most state television stations had acknowledged U.S. Sen. John Warner as the winner. Even Mark Warner, at the time, admitted defeat when he called the senator to congratulate him on his win.

Mark Warner was in the middle of conceding victory when a voice came from his far right.

"Mark! Mark!" the female voice cried. "It's 50-50!"

For the next few minutes the crowd on the floor and the elected officials on stage started to believe in miracles again. The big screen television in the corner showed that the challenger was down only 7,000 votes, with 77 percent of the precincts reporting.

For the second year in a row the Democrats found themselves standing on eggshells. In 1995 they were on the verge of losing their majority in the state Senate, only to come back toward the end of the night and hold onto a tie.

Last night, for at least a moment, the Democrats were on edge once again as they almost snared a victory from the jaws of defeat.

"Last year we were euphoric to hold on to the General Assembly," Lt. Gov. Donald S. Beyer said. "We're not euphoric (right now), but grateful for Mark Warner's campaign. And we're optimistic for next year."

Next year Beyer plans to run for governor.

By midnight Mark Warner finished up on the short end of the ballots, losing 53 percent to 47 percent. But he was much closer to victory than a majority of the polls had shown.

A member of his campaign staff said the numbers did not surprise to him.

"I have always been saying (it would be close)," he said. "Conventional wisdom and the (press) had been saying that (it wouldn't be close)."

Beyer didn't have to search long to see the half-full glass.

"We're wistful," he said. "It's just a temporary loss. He has a bright future ahead of himself.

"It (the narrow defeat) means he did virtually everything right."

The one thing keeping Mark Warner from victory, Beyer said, were Democrats who voted for the incumbent Republican senator because of his controversial his stand against Oliver North 1994.

"We weren't able to overcome the thank you votes for John Warner," Beyer said.

Delegate Brian J. Moran, D-Alexandria, whose brother, James, won the 8th District congressional seat, said he felt the excitement but was wary of celebrating.

"Everyone's cautiously optimistic," he said. "That has got to be considered a moral victory if it's that close."

Earlier in the evening before the late rally, the excitement of a Mark Warner victory slowly deflated as the cheers around the many televisions in the room seemed more for national results than for Mark Warner.

Occupants of the Radisson Mark Hotel eventually started looking for a silver lining.

Beyer and U.S. Sen. Charles S. Robb gave Mark Warner speeches that were more indicative of introducing a can't-miss-fledgling-star-to-be than that of a millionaire tasting defeat in his first attempt at a statewide office.

Beyer said he's looking forward to meeting with Mark Warner, headed the Democratic Party of Virginia, so he can find a place for the cellular phone tycoon in a state position.

"As soon as he gets back from Disney World, I want to meet with him for a couple hours (to discuss his future in state politics)," he said.

GOP sent on roller coaster ride

Polling error causes emotional stir

Coveh Solaimani
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Election night was a roller coaster ride for the Republican Party.

Feelings of nervousness, excitement, bewilderment and relief filled the party's headquarters at the Fairview Marriott in Falls Church.

The evening began with many of the party's supporters tense as U.S. Sen. John W. Warner's Democratic challenger, Mark R. Warner, refused to go away in a race that was expected to be a runaway for the incumbent.

GOP Chairman J. Randy Forbes was unpleasantly surprised with the early reports.

"I'm very nervous," he said. "I'll stay nervous until the last precincts report."

Eric Petersen, John Warner's press secretary, projected confidence but with the tone of doubt regarding the early reports.

"Polling places are still open and people are still voting," he said.

Around 9:30 p.m. the atmosphere changed dramatically. Jubilation replaced tension as the smell of victory filled the air. The major networks and The Associated Press had predicted victory for the Republican incumbent.

Fifteen minutes later, the excitement reached its peak when Gov. George Allen took the stage and proclaimed, "This is a good day — a great night for Virginia."

Allen announced that GOP presidential candidate Bob Dole had won Virginia and that John Warner had earned a fourth term.

Warner later stood at the platform and told the crowd he just received a call from his opponent.

"In the tradition of Virginia politics, which are very valuable to all of us, I just received a call from my opponent, Mark Warner, who very graciously — and I underline very graciously — conceded defeat," the 69-year-old senator said.

But the roller coaster was about to lead downhill.

Moments after giving his victory speech the 18-year- incumbent started to hear news that maybe he wasn't the victor after all.

Reports surfaced that Mark Warner was gaining ground and a lead that once stood at a seemingly insurmountable 53 percent to 47 percent had shrunk to roughly even. With 86 percent of the precincts reporting, the Warners were neck-and-neck with the incumbent holding a slim 13,000 vote margin.

After hearing the news, John Warner appeared confused and stood speechless before finally mustering a response.

"It's been a good vote," he said. "We'll just have to wait and see the final count. The absentee ballots have to be checked."

After the statement the GOP senator left the celebration and returned to his hotel room. Many of John Warner's supporters followed the lead and the once festive atmosphere became one of puzzlement.

Allen seemed shocked by the information

"It's surprising. It's hard to determine what precincts haven't reported yet," Allen said, adding that he couldn't recall a similar situation.

Delegate Jay Katzen, R-Fauquier, said the circumstances reminded him of the famous Thomas Dewey-Harry S. Truman presidential election, which had newspapers predicting a Dewey victory. Instead, Truman pulled off the comeback.

The GOP's anxiety would later be comforted when reports of miscalculations by a Fairfax County precinct were made public. John Warner was indeed victorious. And the self-proclaimed "Salty Survivor" had survived again.

A primer on electing America's next president

"Each state shall appoint, in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct, a number of electors, equal to the whole number of senators and representatives to which the state may be entitled in the Congress." - U.S. Constitution, Article 2, Section 1

Tara Slate Donaldson
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

The Electoral College originally was set down in Article 2 of the Constitution as a means of preventing the general public from making a poor decision. When the original provision was made, the Founding Fathers were concerned that a popular vote would be based on less-than-educated decisions. At the time, the majority of men eligible to vote were barely literate and mostly uneducated. The Electoral College was created to ensure that more informed voters would make the final decision.

More than 200 years later, the Constitution still requires a presidental candidate to have a majority in the Electoral College to win, regardless of the number of citizens who actually cast their votes for him. Each state receives the same number of electoral votes as members of Congress. That is, the number of the state's representatives to the House of Representatives, plus two votes for its two senators.

Electoral votes refers to the votes cast by members of the Electoral College, which is represented by members nominated by each political party. Popular vote is the actual number of people who voted for a particular candidate.

The number of Electoral College members each party receives is determined by that party's number of state representatives to Congress. Thus, if a state has eight Democrats and four Republicans in Congress, the state's Electoral College contains eight Democrats and four Republicans.

Of the total 538 electoral votes, a candidate must receive 270 to win. The 12th Amendment provided that electors vote separately for president and vice president.

Although the Electoral College of each state is expected to be consistent with the popular vote, there are cases in which they differ, usually resulting in failed attempts to alter the

Electoral College and change the method of presidential election. In all cases, the decision of the Electoral College is final without regard to the popular vote. Theoretically, 538 people control the election, even if that group's decision differs from the rest of the voters in the nation. When the popular vote projects a winner different from that of the electoral vote, the final winner is called a minority president.

Ten presidents — James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Grover Cleveland, Benjamin Harrison, Woodrow Wilson, Harry S. Truman, Richard M. Nixon and Bill Clinton (in 1992) — were elected by a majority of electoral votes even though they possessed a minority of the total national popular vote.

Even when the results of the Electoral College agree with those of the popular vote, the "winner-take-all" system of the college can give one candidate the appearance of a landslide when in reality, the popular vote is much closer.

In 1988 George Bush appeared to beat Michael Dukakis by a large margin — 426 electoral votes to 112, when actually he won by less than 8 percent of the total popular vote.

On a state level, in 1992 Clinton received slightly more than a million popular votes in Virginia to Bush's estimated 1.1 million. Yet when the Electoral College of Virginia voted for Bush, Clinton received no electoral votes and Bush received all 13. Bush won the entire state of Virginia even though little more than 100,000 popular votes separated the two candidates.

DECISION '96

Bliley romps in Richmond, breezes to victory

Amy Drewer
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Just as this year's presidential election proved to be a quiet one, so did last night's small gathering at the state Republican headquarters. A crowd of about 200 dwindled to 50 within two hours.

Donning stickers and balloons bearing the name of their "man," supporters of U.S. Rep. Thomas J. Bliley Jr. made up the bulk of the group, but overall, Republicans at the Richmond Hyatt were a subdued crowd.

Bliley, who has served since 1981, easily took Virginia's House District 7, defeating Democratic challenger Roderic H. Slayton 76 percent to 20 percent.

"I think we're pleased with results here in Virginia," Bliley said early in the night. "I think we've carried the state for Dole. The rest is up to the other states."

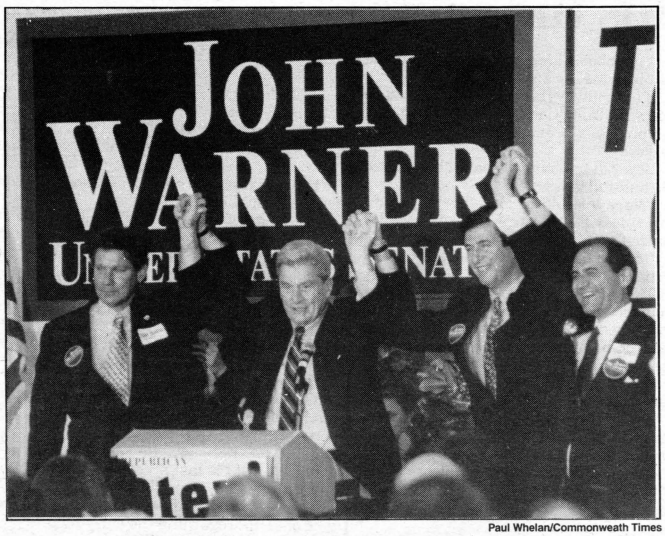
Bliley, who calmly and confidently worked his way across the Hyatt's Capital Ballroom, departed at 9:30 p.m. without offering a victory speech.

The headquarter's large-screen television was tuned to CNN as states reported presidential tallies for President Bill Clinton and Republican challenger Bob Dole. But as state victories for Dole came in, applause barely could be heard above the tinkling of glasses and the rip of tape as campaigners peeled posters from the walls.

At the headquarters, one Republican told of his own ideas about the small turnout, voicing concern about this year's television election coverage.

"What if you're wrong when you call an election in Florida and it influences people in California?" he asked. "CNN and others are trying to call it first. It seems like a perversion of the process. It sure has taken the fun out of watching."

Republican incumbent U.S. Sen. John W. Warner defeated Democrat Mark Warner 53 percent to 47 percent. However, in a Capital News Service exit poll, Hanover County residents, who usually vote Republican by a large margin, put challenger Mark Warner ahead of John Warner by 10 percent.



Paul Whelan/Commonwealth Times

GOP DREAM TEAM— From left: Northern Virgina Congressman Tom Davis, John Warner, George Allen and James S. Gilmore III.

Some Bliley and Dole supporters commented on the CNS poll of 1,000 Richmond metro area voters taken Tuesday.

"I don't know why Hanover would vote that way," said one Republican with relatives in Hanover County. "I think there are a lot of clueless voters out there that they (Democrats) round up to come vote."

Another Republican supporter who now lives in Chesterfield County but was born and raised in Hanover said, "There is a tremendous migration of yippies in Hanover. The new generation represents the wanted change in the county.

"Sen. John Warner represented the old guard. Mark Warner, on the surface, represented the new, innovative candidate."

However, some counties stayed consistent with past voting patterns.

According to the poll, Chesterfield County, traditionally Republican, voted for Sen. John Warner 57 percent to 43 percent. Chesterfield's vote reflected the commonwealth's tally as a whole.

One Chesterfield resident said he thought the poll was a good representation of his area.

"The area I live in, Midlothian, has been traditionally Republican," he said. "John Warner has a record of achievement. Mark Warner doesn't have that."

M. WARNER

continued from page 3

"Fourteen years ago I didn't have a penny to my name," he said. "What I have I didn't inherit — nobody gave it to me. I earned it. I don't regret spending one dime."

John Warner, 69, first was elected to the Senate in 1978. He is the chairman of the Rules Committee and a member of the Armed Services, the Agriculture, the Environment, and the Public Works committees.

Mark Warner, 41, has been involved with the Democratic Party since 1974. Highlights of his political career include working as the chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia from 1993-1995 and serving as the managing trustee of the Democratic National Committee since 1992.

Mark Warner, in his concession speech, offered congratulations to John Warner and acknowledged what the senior senator has done for Virginia.

"I think I can speak for all of us when I say, with all due respect, — as he calls himself— we hope that that salty old Virginia ham continues bringing the bacon home to the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Beyer said that the people of Virginia had witnessed the birth of a true statewide national leader. "Mark Warner is the man who retaught us the meaning of courage and dignity in a political race," he said.

Mark Warner said, "In accepting our party's nomination in June, I said, 'Let it be said that I kept your faith and that I made you who nominated me proud'. I hope I have kept that pledge."To many Virginia Democrats, he is the future of their party.

"Ultimately, he was and is a popular and respected figure in Virginia politics," Robb said.

J. WARNER

continued from page 3

curve when a staffer was fired after making a racist comment before the last senatorial debate. Nonetheless, the John Warner machine kept rolling.

But soon after the senator's victory speech, reports began filtering into the campaign headquarters that the race was closer than originally thought.

In fact, with 86 percent of the precincts reporting, John Warner was no more than 13,000 votes ahead of Mark Warner — a margin so narrow that each candidate was registering 50 percent of the vote.

The reports reflected earlier ones that had the two senatorial candidates neck-and-neck. Some Republicans questioned these forecasts."That would surprise me," Forbes said about the apparently close race. "I don't think it's going to be accurate."

Allen, who moments earlier had announced that The Associated Press proclaimed John Warner the winner, was baffled by the news.

Confronted with questions concerning the narrow lead, John Warner commented that the absentee votes still needed to be counted.

Peterson explained that the rural vote, which tends to lean Republican, would be the last to come in and John Warner would then pull away.

But what eventually helped John Warner to pull away was a correction in Fairfax County.

Apparently someone confused John with Mark, or vice versa, and mixed up the tallies. When the error was straightened out, John Warner's lead was more pronounced and his victory confirmed.

Virginia Congressional Races

1st District
*Herbert H. Bateman (R) (unopposed) 96%

2nd District
*Owen B. Pickett (D): 65%
John F. Tate (R): 35%

3rd District
*Robert C. Scott (D): 82%
Elsie Goodwyn Holland (R): 18%

4th District
*Norman R. Sisisky (D): 78%
Anthony J. Zevgolis (R): 22%

5th District
George Landrith (R): 36%
Virgil H. Goode Jr. (D): 60%
George R. Wood (Reform): 4%

6th District
*Robert W. Goddlatte (R): 67%
Jeffery W. Grey (D): 31%
Jay P. Rutledge (Libertarian): 2%

7th District
*Thomas J. Bliley Jr. (R): 75%
Roderic H. Slayton (D): 20%
Bradley E. Evans (Independent): 5%

8th District
*James P. Moran Jr. (D): 64%
John Otey (R): 30%
Ward Edmonds (Reform): 3%
Charles Severance (Independent): 2%
Sarina Grosswald (Natural Law Party): 1%

9th District
*Frederick C. Boucher (D): 65%
Thomas I. Roberts (Reform): 4%
Patrick C. Muldoon (R): 31%

10th District
*Frank R. Wolf (R): 72%
Robert L. Weinberg (D): 26%
Gary A. Reams (Libertarian): 3%

11th District
*Thomas M. Davis III (R): 64%
Thomas J. Horton (D): 35%

* — incumbent

Virginia Constitutional Amendments

Question 1:
Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide that the funds in the governmental employees retirement system shall be trust funds and be invested and administered solely in the interests of the members and beneficiaries of the system?

Yes: 83% No: 17%

Question 2:
Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to provide that the victims of crime shall be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect in the criminal justice process and that the General Assembly may define, by law, the rights of victims of crime?

Yes: 84% No: 16%

Question 3:
Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to authorize the General Assembly to allow the Commonwealth the right of an appeal in all cases, including criminal cases, including criminal cases, provided that the appeal would not violate the Virginia or United State Constitutions?

Yes: 70% No: 30%

Question 4:
Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended so that the form for voter registration may be revised and so that voters who move within Virginia may be allowed to vote in their former precincts under the conditions and time limits provided by law?

Yes: 74% No: 26%

Question 5:
Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to remove the language which prohibits the General Assembly from passing a law permitting incorporation of any church or religious organization?

Yes: 50% No: 50%