

Impact of Youth Vote in 1972 Is Unclear

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Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 — Newly enfranchised young voters upset the political establishment in a number of scattered communities in yesterday's off-year elections, but party leaders remained unsure about what their collective impact might be next year.

In the first general election since the 26th Amendment qualified 18-to-20-year-olds to participate, young people and campus-oriented candidates were chosen mayors, councilmen and school board members in isolated localities across the country without setting any clear-cut trend.

The strongest impact of the new youth vote, which could add 25 million people to the rolls in 1972, was felt in a few moderate-sized cities that contain large state universities in states that permit on-campus voting.

In Boulder, Colo., two 28-year-old candidates, a campus bookstore owner and a graduate student, were elected to the nine-member City Council, with an estimated quarter of the votes being cast by University of Colorado students and other young persons.

In East Lansing, Mich., two candidates supported by students at Michigan State University were elected to the City

Council, and the Mayor, a speech professor at the university, was defeated after 12 years in office.

"If they continue to vote as a block," Mayor Gordon L. Thomas predicted, "they will be able to operate the entire city."

In Bloomington, Ind., a 32-year-old Democrat who graduated from the Indiana University law school last spring, upset a two-term Republican incumbent Mayor with the help of student votes. He also piled up majorities in off-campus precincts.

There was only limited evidence, however, that students and other young voters had any particular political impact in the state elections in Virginia, Kentucky and Mississippi or the contests in Philadelphia, Cleveland, San Francisco and Boston.

In Boston's 21st Ward, adjacent to Cambridge and full of Harvard students, Mayor Kevin H. White piled up a 4-to-1 margin over Representative Louise Day Hicks, good for a 6,000-vote majority, but it melted into his citywide lead of 43,000.

In Columbus, Ohio, students at Ohio State were given a share of the credit for replacing Mayor Maynard E. Sensenbrenner. The Mayor, a 69-year-old Democrat, had held the office for 14 years. He was defeated by Tom Moody, his Republican opponent. Mr. Sensenbrenner had run an antistudent, antiblack campaign.

Other Victors

Among other instances in which young candidates rode the wave of a youth to victory were these:

¶Maureen Massiwer, an 18-year-old freshman at Brown University, was elected to the school committee in Pawtucket, R. I., running first of six candidates for three openings.

¶Lawrence S. Dicara, a 22-year-old Harvard graduate was elected to the City Council in Boston.

¶Ron Hooker, a 19-year-old junior at Ashland College, won an impressive write-in victory over four other candidates to become Mayor of Newcomertown, Ohio, a village of about 4,000.

¶Jon Crews, 24, a graduate student at the University of Northern Iowa, beat the incumbent Mayor of Cedar Falls, Frank Williams, by running as an "environmentalist."

¶William H. Lynch, 18, defeated James Kruchowski, a 46-year-old insurance man, for a seat on the Bremerton, Wash., school board by campaigning for stiffer discipline in the schools.

¶Jody Smith, 19, unseated

Mayor E. B. Swanson in Ayrshire, Iowa, a village of 243. The vote was 83 to 25.

¶Gene Parsons, 21, was elected to the City Council in Bassett, Iowa, but Jim Ashley, 19, lost his race for Mayor there.

¶Russell Stanton, 21, a student at Southwest State College, was elected to the City Council in Marshall, Minn., over two opponents.

¶David Passman, 19, a sophomore at Central Florida Junior College, ran second in a three-man race for a City Council seat in Ocala, Fla., and will get another chance in a runoff Nov. 16.

Youthful winners in the Boulder council election were Tim Fuller, owner of the Brillig Works Bookstore, and Mrs. Karen Paget, a housewife working for her doctor's degree. Also elected with student support was Penfield W. Tate 2d, 41, an attorney, who will become the first black member of the council.