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The Election of 1962

The big question to be answered by the 1962 election returns was whether Republicans, having recaptured the Governorship in 1960, were safely back in the saddle after Democrats had held the office from 1957 to 1961 and the office of Lieutenant Governor from 1959 to 1961.

From outward appearances the Republicans should have been safe enough, for they usually outpoll Democrats by bigger margins in off-year elections than when the presidency is being contested.

Then, too, U. S. Senator B. B. Hickenlooper, the best vote-getter in the party's history in Iowa, was heading the ticket. So it looked good for the G.O.P.

But the campaign was no sooner under way than it became noticeable that the Republican Governor, Norman A. Erbe, was in trouble. And even Senator Hickenlooper was not finding the path to a fourth term as smoothly surfaced as anticipated.

The Senator was getting unexpectedly tough opposition from E. B. Smith, an Iowa State University professor, for one thing. For another, the people were manifesting open disgust over the indecisiveness of Governor Erbe on vital issues. Democrats advertised "New Strength for Iowa" with their candidate for Governor, Commerce Commissioner Harold E. Hughes. In contrast to the Governor, he was making his position known on all important issues, even coming out flatly for legalizing liquor by the drink.

When the votes cast on election day, November 6, 1962, were counted they showed Senator Hickenlooper the winner by 54,762 votes. But Democrats had won the Governor's seat, for the third time in the last four elections, by 41,944 votes. Republicans won all other state offices. The vote:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Republican</i>		<i>Democrat</i>	
U.S. Senator	Hickenlooper	431,364	Smith	376,602
Governor	Erbe	388,955	Hughes	430,899
Lt. Gov.	Mooty	403,845	Wolf	381,574
Sec. State	Synhorst	436,965	Dever	346,990
Auditor	Akers	424,373	Connor	356,814
Treasurer	Abrahamson	419,507	Gillette	367,982
Sec. Agri.	Liddy	418,555	Crawford	356,693
Atty. Gen.	Hultman	428,682	Scalise	338,088

Republicans also won six of seven Congressional seats, losing only in the Fifth.

FRANK T. NYE