

THE PALIMPSEST

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The Election of 1960

Both parties looked forward eagerly to the 1960 election, each with good reason. Democrats felt they could consolidate their sizeable gains of the last four years. They were all but conceded the open United States Senate seat and were given a 50-50 chance to hold the governorship.

Republicans admittedly were fighting an uphill battle for the senatorship against Governor Herschel C. Loveless, the first Iowa Democrat in two decades to prove his popularity twice in succession at the polls. But they took encouragement from their normally bright presidential election year prospects. They hoped to pile up a big enough margin for their presidential candidate, Vice-President Richard M. Nixon, in his contest with the Democratic nominee, Senator John F. Kennedy, to pull through weaker candidates on the state ticket.

Shortly after the campaign began it became obvious that Nixon would win easily in Iowa. Would his margin be big enough to carry other

Republicans to victory? That was the question. Unexpected help came from Democrats themselves when a split developed between Governor Loveless and Lieutenant Governor Edward J. McManus, the party's candidate for Governor, lessening their chances to win.

On election day, November 8, 1960, more Iowans voted for President than in 1956 or 1952. They gave Candidate Nixon a whopping 171,816 margin, elected State Senator Jack Miller to the Senate over Governor Loveless by 47,344 votes and chose Attorney General Norman A. Erbe for Governor over Lieutenant Governor McManus by 52,963 votes. Other Republicans enjoyed even more comfortable victory margins. The vote:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Republican</i>	<i>Democrat</i>
President	Nixon 722,381	Kennedy 550,565
U. S. Senator	Miller 642,463	Loveless 595,119
Governor	Erbe 645,026	McManus 592,063
Lt. Gov.	Mooty 636,796	Hansen 564,668
Sec. of State	Synhorst 658,942	Robinson 541,995
Auditor	Akers 638,727	Hutte 557,375
Treasurer	Abrahamson 660,565	Lawlor 537,242
Sec. of Agri.	Spry 645,336	Hill 556,076
Atty. General	Hultman 638,703	Wilson 551,061

The Republicans also swept all three openings on the Iowa Supreme Court. On the only special issue, the people voted against holding a constitutional convention, 534,628 to 470,257.

FRANK T. NYE