

THE PALIMPSEST

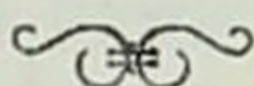
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The Election of 1966

Could Iowa Republicans stage a comeback from their disastrous 1964 defeat? Or had the Democratic team captained by Governor Harold E. Hughes established itself so firmly in office that it could not be dislodged? The 1966 election would tell.

Republican chances seemed brighter, if only because there was no presidential election in 1966 and, traditionally, Iowa Democrats have not been as strong in off-year elections as when the presidency was at stake. But Iowa Democrats had never before been blessed with such a popular third-term candidate for Governor to lead their ticket in an off-year either.

A factor not present in 1964, that seemed to favor Republicans, was the race for a seat in the United States Senate. The Republican incumbent, Jack Miller, was popular. But, as head of the Republican ticket, would his popularity be enough to offset that of Governor Hughes on the Democratic ticket? For months the public had antici-

pated a head-on Miller-Hughes contest for Senator that would settle this question. But it was not to be. The contest now was whether Senator Miller or Governor Hughes would help his party the most.

Election results showed that Republicans had fared better under Senator Miller, who became the first Iowa candidate to carry all 99 counties in coasting to an easy re-election victory. His tremendous 198,225-vote margin also helped Republicans recapture four of the seven state offices and control of the Iowa House, as well as to win back four of five congressional seats lost to Democrats in 1964. But Governor Hughes won a third term handily, piling up a 99,741-vote edge, which helped Democrats save two other state offices, retain control of the Iowa Senate and salvage two congressional seats. Here are the election results:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Democrat</i>		<i>Republican</i>	
U. S. Sen.	Smith	324,114	Miller	522,339
Governor	Hughes	494,259	Murray	394,518
Lt. Gov.	Fulton	424,968	Mills	423,708
Sec. State	Doyle	375,173	Synhorst	471,547
Auditor	Worthington	398,577	Smith	442,063
Treasurer	Franzenburg	427,311	Awtry	412,666
Sec. Agri.	Owen	391,521	Liddy	454,823
Atty. Gen.	Scalise	417,587	Turner	428,209

A proposed constitutional amendment, moving the date for laws to become effective to July 1 from July 4 in years the legislature meets, also won ratification, 340,539 to 96, 555.