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The political pulse

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The election eye

Vote analysis shows Hansen not doing well

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One of the most interesting features of an election is to study the vote results which will show graphically that some candidates are strong and others are weak.

This is vividly bared in the May 25 Primary Election despite an unusually light turnout. The best way in arriving at a conclusion is to compare the votes uncontested candidates of the same party received.

A caution is to avoid comparing the votes a Democrat received, with those of a Republican for the same office. In virtually all cases, there was a heavier Republican vote because the Republican ticket offered the more interesting races on the state level, and, in most cases, on the legislative and county level.

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The comparison shows that Rep. George Hansen, R-Idaho, running well behind candidates of his own party in most cases, even those for county offices. However, another factor is the probability of strong crossover vote from those leaning Democratic, independents and moderates. Because Hansen looks weak now may not be the case in another six months, however.

For example in Bonneville County which is generally viewed as a bellweather county because of a cross-section of people, Hansen polled only 4,880 votes. This is far below the approximate 6,400 votes for the two gubernatorial contestants, Lt. Gov. Phil Batt and House Speaker Ralph Olmstead.

Conceding a contest would draw more voters, it is observed that Hansen also drew far

less than two other uncontested state candidates, Secretary of State Pete T. Cenarrusa with 5,748 and State School Supt. Jerry L. Evans with 5,315, and even County Treasurer Mabel Bingham 5,778.

In virtually every county, Hansen ran below the top vote getters on both the state and county level. This is deeply significant as past election records show.

It also shows the Cenarrusa is extremely popular, Supt. Evans less so.

The two Republican gubernatorial candidates attracted by far the most Republican votes in every county.

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On the Democratic side, it reveals Gov. John V. Evans led the Democratic ticket in nearly all cases. In Bonneville, for example, he polled 1,682 votes, ahead of State Auditor Joe Williams 1,535 and Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon with 1,526.

Evans showed unusual strength because he led the ticket with 40,500, ahead of two veteran office holders who usually lead the ticket of both parties, Democrats Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon 38,600 and Auditor Joe Williams 37,200. J.D. Williams for attorney general also did well with 36,600. It indicates Evans is well entrenched and will be difficult to unseat.

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These are only random surveys but most candidates and their avid supporters, whether for state, legislative or county offices, can get an inkling how they will fare in the general election by comparing their votes with other candidates of the same party. Even a few votes difference is significant.