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HEADLINE: Schaefer, Mikulski Win in Md.;
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Turnout Is Modest

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BODY:

Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer won a resounding victory in the Maryland Democratic gubernatorial primary yesterday, parlaying his success in rejuvenating the state's largest city into an overpowering campaign that is almost certain to carry him to the State House as Maryland's 58th governor.

Schaefer, 64, defeated state Attorney General Stephen H. Sachs by a margin of 2 to 1 and will face Republican nominee Thomas J. Mooney in November.

Rep. Barbara A. Mikulski, meanwhile, won the Democratic nomination for U.S. Senate by a ratio of nearly 2 to 1 over Rep. Michael D. Barnes and 4 to 1 over Gov. Harry Hughes. A 10-year, combative veteran of the House, Mikulski, 50, saw her victory swelled by large margins in her Baltimore area base.

Mikulski's victory set the stage for a bitter general election battle with Republican Senate nominee Linda Chavez, marking only the second time in U.S. history that two women from major parties have squared off in a Senate contest. Chavez, 39, said last night that the central issue of the campaign will be the "differences" between her and Mikulski.

"We are as different as two people can be," said Chavez. "Barbara Mikulski is a San Francisco-style Democrat -- people are going to reject her brand of liberalism . . . Barbara can run but she cannot hide."

Mikulski, contrasting her lifelong career in the state with Chavez's two-year residence, said that "Marylanders want a senator who will fight for their day-to-day needs . . . I am a Marylander, and now I am sending a message to my Republican nominee/challenger. Barbara Mikulski is a definite Marylander."

Defeat was particularly stinging for Hughes, whose 30-year public career appears to have ended in a sharp rebuke by the same Maryland voters who carried him to a landslide reelection four years ago.

Hughes conceded defeat shortly after 11 p.m. in his characteristic, low-key style, saying, "The Democrats of Maryland have apparently made their decision as to the candidate they will present to the voters in November, and their decision, obviously, will not be me. The voters have spoken and I accept their decision."

Schaefer, his arm around his running mate, state Sen. Melvin A. Steinberg, took to the stage at the Omni Hotel in Baltimore to claim victory about 10:45 p.m.

Schaefer, Mikulski Win in Md.; GOP Nominates Chavez for Senate Race; Turn

"We campaigned in every part of the state, from the Eastern Shore to western Maryland, over in the Washington area and central Maryland. Every area we've been in, Mickey and I. And wherever I was, they said, 'Way to go, Don baby!' "

In conceding defeat a few minutes earlier, Sachs said Schaefer "deserves our respect for the mandate he has won. He deserves our good will as he prepares to lead the state of Maryland. He has my good will and my good wishes."

Schaefer, the popular four-term mayor of Baltimore, easily shrugged off an aggressive challenge by Sachs, winning 62 percent of the vote to the two-term attorney general's 35 percent, with 98 percent of the vote reported. Sachs carried only Montgomery and Prince George's counties among Maryland's 24 political jurisdictions.

Mikulski, gaining increasing strength throughout the evening, won the Senate nomination with 53 percent of the vote, compared with Barnes' 29 percent and Hughes' 13 percent, with 99 percent of the vote tabulated. Though Barnes, 42, won overwhelmingly in his home county of Montgomery and narrowly in Prince George's, Mikulski enjoyed a landslide in the vote-rich areas of Baltimore and Baltimore County. Mikulski carried Baltimore by a 7-to-1 ratio over Barnes.

Mikulski's victory came 12 years after she lost her first race for the U.S. Senate.

In spite of an election year that included well-contested races for all but one statewide office, the entire General Assembly and dozens of local posts, Maryland voters greeted a clear, sunny election day with a large degree of apathy.

It appeared unlikely that turnout would exceed that of 1982, when only 48 percent of Democratic voters and 34 percent of Republicans ventured to the polls in what was generally considered to be a lackluster political year. Turnout in the Democratic governor's race was projected at 43 percent.

In the Democratic primary for attorney general, which guarantees the general election victory because no Republican filed for the seat, Lt. Gov. J. Joseph Curran Jr. defeated deputy Maryland attorney general Eleanor M. Carey and former federal prosecutor Russell T. Baker.

Curran, who trailed Carey for much of the evening, began pulling ahead when results from Baltimore began coming in. With 97 percent of the vote reported, Curran was leading with 37 percent, compared with Baker's 32 percent and Carey's 31 percent.

Maryland Comptroller Louis S. Goldstein won election to an eighth four-year term. There was no Republican candidate in that race.

Yesterday's Democratic primary demonstrated once again the dominance of the Baltimore area in deciding statewide elections. If Schaefer, Mikulski and Curran prevail in November, every statewide office but comptroller will be held by a Baltimore area politician. The last time Baltimore politicians controlled both U.S. Senate seats and the governor's office was 1951.

Barnes, phenomenally popular in his Montgomery County district after four elections to the U.S. House, discovered how difficult it is to run statewide with a Washington area base. Barnes ran strongly only in Montgomery and Prince George's counties.

Barnes also had historical precedent to overcome: The last Montgomery County resident to win an election for U.S. Senate was Blair Lee in 1913.

Schaefer also benefited from the Baltimore area dominance. Sachs, a traditional liberal Democrat from Baltimore, bolstered his appeal by picking a black running mate, Rep. Parren J. Mitchell. He won in Montgomery and Prince George's but was overwhelmed in Baltimore and the suburban Baltimore counties.

Sachs' strategy in the governor's race was to capture 80 percent of the black vote with the help of Mitchell and 20 percent of the white vote.

The strategy found some support among some black voters. When asked whom he voted for, Paul Fowler Sr. of Kentland, a predominantly black community inside the Beltway in Prince George's County, said: "You don't even have to ask that. [It's] Sachs-Mitchell. I feel Maryland should be innovative. If down in Virginia they can elect a black lieutenant governor, why can't Maryland . . . ?"

But the strategy broke down in the majority black city of Baltimore, where Schaefer led with more than 60 percent of the vote.

Returns in the Democratic contests for U.S. Senate and governor were consistent with poll findings almost a year ago that established Mikulski and Schaefer as the dominant favorites, positions they did not relinquish despite aggressive and well-financed campaigns by their opponents.

Some observers attributed yesterday's low turnout to a lack of interest in statewide races that voters perceived as so lopsided as to be foregone conclusions. Others speculated that prospective voters reacted to a spate of negative campaigning in the final weeks by staying home.

"There's no question there was a backlash against the negativism," said Lanny J. Davis, a Montgomery County lawyer and member of the Democratic National Committee.

Sachs, 52, was one candidate who learned the limits of a negative campaign against Schaefer, arguably the most popular politician in Maryland.

"We're the longest of long shots," Sachs said two hours before the polls closed. Losing to Schaefer, said the two-term attorney general, would be akin to "losing to the colossus of Maryland politics, and that is no disgrace."

The 1986 elections represent a watershed for Maryland politics, with wholesale changes in leadership at the state level and on Capitol Hill. With Hughes, 59, leaving office after serving his constitutional limit of two terms, and with the retirement of U.S. Sen. Charles McC. Mathias Jr., the state's senior Republican officeholder, opportunities were opened for a large group of ambitious and talented politicians who were looking to move on to higher office.

Sachs' pursuit of the governorship guaranteed another statewide office vacancy, producing an early scramble to succeed him as attorney general among Carey, Baker and Curran.

Gubernatorial and congressional politics also combined to ensure that both houses of the Maryland General Assembly will have new presiding officers in January.

Baltimore County Democrat Steinberg, one of the most forceful and successful leaders of the 47-member Senate in recent history, surprised most observers by opting to join Schaefer as his lieutenant governor running mate. And House Speaker Benjamin L. Cardin (D-Baltimore), after abandoning his quest to become governor, chose to run for the U.S. House from the 3rd District in hopes of succeeding Mikulski.

The legislature is facing other changes as well, with the two Republican leaders of the House of Delegates running for higher office and an unusually high turnover expected among the 188 members of the House and Senate.

But it was Mathias' Sept. 27 decision to retire after a long career as one of the state's most successful Republican politicians that set off the biggest scramble. Democrats, hoping to recapture the seat in an overwhelmingly Democratic state, leaped at the opportunity.

Among them was Hughes, who had been expected to run for Mathias' seat even had the three-term senator sought reelection. A little more than a year ago, Hughes was regarded as the favorite to capture the Democratic nomination for

U.S. Senate.

But a crisis in the state's \$ 9 billion savings and loan industry, sparked by a depositor run on a Baltimore thrift association in May 1985, dramatically increased his vulnerability and fueled hopes of other Democrats.

Within five days of Mathias' retirement announcement, Baltimore County Executive Donald P. Hutchinson entered the Democratic race for Senate. Six days after Hutchinson became the first announced Democratic candidate, Barnes became the second.

The 42-year-old Montgomery County lawyer hoped that his enormous popularity in the Washington suburbs, which he has represented in the House for four terms, would be the springboard to statewide office.

Mikulski joined the crowded field in late October, and she quickly became the favorite. Her lead in the polls was reinforced by an aggressive out-of-state fund-raising effort that drew upon a network of female professionals and liberal Democrats. Although Barnes was able to match Mikulski's fund raising until the last few weeks of the campaign, the others found that they could not.

Mikulski's strength forced Hutchinson to drop from the field in early June.

As Mikulski dominated the Senate race, another Baltimorean, Schaefer, did the same in the gubernatorial contest. Though he did not formally enter the race until spring, his expected candidacy was a prominent feature of the Democratic landscape as early as two years ago.

In fact, Schaefer, Baltimore's mayor for 15 years, forced two candidates out of the race before he formally declared his intentions. Cardin faced reality last December when he chose to run for the House of Representatives rather than buck the Schaefer tide.

Howard County Executive J. Hugh Nichols, who had switched to the Republican Party in hopes of becoming governor, became the next casualty as he realized that Schaefer was drying up even GOP sources of campaign contributions.

In a single night a year ago, Schaefer raised \$ 1 million, much of it from the business community. His strategists predicted that he would eventually raise \$ 2.6 million for the primary alone, and as of two weeks ago he was only \$ 200,000 short.

Schaefer's ability to draw political contributions dwarfed even the legendary fund-raising prowess of former governor Marvin Mandel.

By contrast, Sachs' \$ 1.1 million campaign seemed positively threadbare, though only four years ago Hughes won reelection with less than that. What he lacked in money, Sachs hoped to make up for in energy and early campaigning.

The two-term attorney general began his race almost four years ago, patterning the effort on his first statewide race, a two-year affair that preempted the field in the 1978 attorney general's contest.

Once Schaefer entered the race, Sachs pinned his hopes on galvanizing the state's liberal constituency and on its recent history of electing reform-minded politicians.

Sachs built his campaign around a controversial proposal to raise the sales tax and pump the proceeds into public education. And in an appeal to the black community, he recruited Mitchell, the state's leading black politician, to be his running mate.

Nonetheless, Sachs consistently trailed Schaefer in public opinion polls. The narrowest lead Schaefer had throughout the campaign was 17 percentage points, in a Baltimore Sun survey in July.

Mooney, 42, a two-term legislator from Takoma Park and a former Democrat, was unopposed in the Republican gubernatorial primary.

In addition to Mitchell, Barnes and Mikulski, the Maryland delegation to the House of Representatives will lose another of its veterans, Rep. Marjorie S. Holt, who decided to retire after representing the Anne Arundel County-based 4th District for 14 years. Half of the eight-member Maryland House delegation will be new when Congress convenes in January.

This year brings dramatic changes in Montgomery and Prince George's counties as well. Though Prince George's political circles remain relatively unchanged, Montgomery County has been a cauldron, not the least because Barnes' decision to run for the U.S. Senate provoked a stampede of candidates to succeed him.

GRAPHIC: Photo, Rep. Barbara Mikulski, a candidate for Senate nomination, gestures exultantly after casting her vote in Baltimore. (Barbara Mikulski gestures exultantly), UPI; Photo, Gubernatorial nominee William Donald Schaefer flanked by running mate Melvin Steinberg and friend Hilda Mae Snoops. (Melvin Steinberg and Hilda Mae Snoops), Dudley M. Brooks; Rep. Barbara Mikulski, a candidate for Senate nomination, gestures exultantly after casting her vote in Baltimore.