



10 of 226 DOCUMENTS

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**HEADLINE:** Incumbents Cane, Colburn, Eckhardt and Haddaway keep District 37

**BYLINE:** By, Sarah Lake

**BODY:**

SALISBURY -- Incumbents stole the show in the District 37 race, with unofficial numbers showing a significant lead over newcomers.

Sen. Richard Colburn retained the seat he's held since 1994, defeating newcomer Chris Robinson with roughly 60 percent of the vote.

Throughout the campaign, Colburn touted his experience, and claimed his excellence in constituent service, as well as his Eastern Shore roots, would push him over the edge.

"I was born and raised on the Eastern Shore. I love the Eastern Shore, and I'm happy the voters would want me to work on their behalf another four years," Colburn said, adding that Robinson was a worthy opponent who ran an honorable and respectable campaign.

Robinson said Colburn ran a hard campaign and "it's obvious he's made a lot of good friends over the years. I'm sure he'll continue to give excellent constituent service."

Robinson ran on his experience as a small business owner, as he's run a private practice law firm in Cambridge since 2001. As for his political future, Robinson said he's honored to be an officer of the court and "will finish painting the trim in my office, and get back to being a full-time lawyer."

In District 37A, Del. Rudy Cane, who has held the seat for 12 years, defeated his young Republican challenger, Dustin Mills, with roughly 60 percent of the vote.

Cane, too, ran on his Eastern Shore roots, as well as his experience as a small-business owner. Ultimately, he said it was his good constituent service that secured his seat.

"If it's something I don't know, I will research it and I try to do a good job," he said.

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Mills, 25, said his loss in no way discourages him from pursuing a future in politics.

"This was not about me ... it's about standing up for the principles," he said. "I had always wondered whether people would listen to what I said, and while a majority did not agree with me, there were 3,500 people who did and I appreciate that."

Republican team Del. Adelaide C. "Addie" Eckardt and Del. Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio managed to retain their partnership in District 37B, holding a healthy lead over Democratic challenger Patrice Stanley. Combined, the incumbents gained roughly 80 percent of the vote, with Stanley mustering a little over 18 percent.

Haddaway-Riccio was a shoo-in, as Eckardt and Stanley are both Dorchester County residents, and the two elected 37B delegates cannot live in the same county.

Eckardt, who has held her seat since 1995, said she looks forward to a continued partnership with Haddaway-Riccio and Colburn.

"We work very closely on a lot of the issues, which has worked extremely well for us," she said. "We will continue to work with the Republican Caucus, tempering legislation that may not be best for our constituents."

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