

# One Vote...



★ A Lansing Michigan School District proposition failed when the vote recount tied at 5,147, resulting in a budget reduction of \$2.5 million (1989).

★ Randall Luthi and Larry Call (Wyoming House of Representatives) tied for the same seat. Luthi was finally declared the winner in a drawing before the State Canvassing Board (1994).

★ John McIntyre led Hal Wick (South Dakota Legislative District 12) 4,195 to 4,191 on election night. A recount showed Wick the winner by one vote, however the State Supreme Court ruled that one ballot counted for Wick was invalid resulting in a tie race. After hearing arguments from both sides the State Legislature seated Wick (1997).

★ Vermont State Representative Sydney Nixon was seated by one vote, but resigned when the State House determined, after a recount, that he had actually lost by one vote (1977).

## ...Does Count

### Close Local Races:

2008, Cayuga Heights Mayor, James Gilmore beat Walter Lynn by 1 vote, 254 to 253.

2007, Caroline Town Council, Peter Hoyt beat Steve Nicholson by 2 votes, 591 to 589.

2007, Groton Trustee, Elizabeth T. Conger beat Linda Bonavia by 2 votes, 156 to 154

2007, Dryden Trustee, Robert Witty beat Lisa Valentinelli by 3 votes, 171 to 168.

2005, Enfield Town Supervisor, Jean Owens beat Gary Fisher by 1 vote, 430 to 429.

2003, Groton Town Justice, Arthur "Dewey" Dawson beat Ward B. Harrison by 2 votes.

1997, Danby Town Supervisor, R. Kenneth Horst beat Mary L. Oltz by 3 votes.

1993, Town of Danby Primary for Town Justice, Gay Huddle beat Gaitano D'Ambrose, by 2 votes.

1991, Town of Enfield Primary for Supervisor, Monroe Payne beat Carl Newhart by 2 votes.

1985, Tompkins County Board of Reps, District 1, Jeff True defeated Donald Slattery by 2 votes.

1971, Caroline Town Councilman, 2<sup>nd</sup> seat, resulted in a tie between William Howell (327 votes) and Paul Drake (327), followed by Frank Proto (326).

### **Other One Vote Stories:**

- In 1868 Andrew Johnson retained his office by one vote. The final tally against him was 35 to 19, but a two-thirds majority of the votes cast was needed to oust him from office, thus a 36-to-18 result was required.

The vote was not to impeach Johnson (which had already been done); the vote was to remove him from office. Folks have come to think of these terms as interchangeable, but they're not. (President Clinton was impeached, but he was not removed from office either.)

- In 1839, Marcus "Landslide" Morton was elected governor of Massachusetts by one vote. Of the 102,066 votes cast by the good people of that state, he received exactly 51,034. Had his count been 51,033, the election would have been thrown into the Legislature, where he probably would not have won.

("Landslide" also made the record books in 1842 when he won the same office again by one vote, this time in the Legislature. (In those days, Massachusetts governors were elected for terms of one year.)

- On 18 January 1961, in Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania), the Afro-Shirazi Party won the general elections by a single seat, after the seat of Chake-Chake on Pemba Island was won by a single vote.

Often sited, but not true One Vote stories:

- In 1645, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.
- In 1649, one vote caused Charles I of England to be executed.
- In 1776, one vote gave America the English language instead of German.
- In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1875, one vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic.
- In 1923, one vote gave Adolf Hitler leadership of the Nazi Party.
- In 1941, one vote saved Selective Service - just weeks before Pearl Harbor was attacked.