Civic '95 Election

Victor rang 10,000 doorbells

'The planet will prevail,' Gomberg says after defeat

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Jim Taylor knocked off incumbent Gomberg in Ward 4.

The marathon runner started knocking on doors and talking to people in May and didn't stop until he was elected Monday night.

With one poll left to report, incumbent Michael Phair was leading Terence Harding by about 200 votes for the second seat the ward.

The celebration was already on at Phair's headquarters as they waited for the final poll to come in.

"It's been an exciting evening, a real cliffhanger," said Phair late Monday night.

"I'm number two in the ward and we're still waiting for that last poll. I'm fully confident that we'll be there in the end but I can't say absolutely for sure yet."

Gomberg bitterly conceded defeat early in the evening, blaming the media and big business for his defeat.

Taylor says he originally planned to support Jane Batty, who lost in Ward 4 by 200 votes in the last election.

When she told him she wasn't running again, he decided to try for council himself. "I was lacking the two things that usually get people elected in this city. I was running against two incumbents and I had no name recognition," Taylor said Monday evening.

"My wife and I started knocking on doors in May and I think that made the difference."

Taylor estimates he and his wife knocked on approximately 10,000 doors during the campaign.

"I could tell that Michael Phair was very popular but that there was a lot of dissatisfaction with Tooker Gomberg. I felt that there was a really good chance for Terence Harding, Brian Bechtel or I to win.

> ***"The important things we did were overshadowed by the trivial things. Somehow the agenda was stolen by a special interest group. . . the business community."***
>
> ***— Tooker Gomberg***

"The real forum in the election was at people's doors and I think that's why I won."

"Meeting all those people made the difference. that made up for my lack of name recognition."

It looked like another heartbreaking finish for Harding, who needed a big swing in the final poll to catch Michael Phair.

Harding finished only 502 votes behind Tooker Gomberg in the last election.

Brian Bechtel, the former executive director of the Edmonton Food Bank, was in the running most of the night as well finishing less than 1,000 votes behind Taylor and Phair.

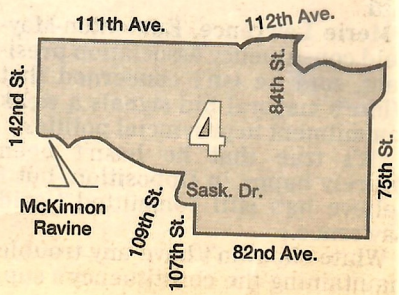
Gomberg said: "I guess my biggest disappointment in this election is that the forum we believed was out there for discussion was not out there.

"The important things we did were overshadowed by the trivial things.

"Somehow the agenda was stolen by a special interest group. . . the business community.

"The growth fanatics have won this round, but the planet will prevail."

Ward 4



Aldermen

Sean Armstrong	2,762
Wes Barlow	387
Brian Bechtel	6,930
Dennis Clark	428
Helene Donahue	1,576
Janice Fleming	4,316
Rod Foster	679
Tooker Gomberg	6,850
Terence Harding	7,534
Frank Klemen	968
Siu Wing Mak	606
Michael Phair	7,768
George Richardson	338
Art Sproul	249
Jim Taylor	8,205
Thomas Tomilson	270
David Ward	1,872
Total Votes	**51,738**