

Chris Hanson easily wins 57th Assembly District race over Howard Miller and Charles Schmidt

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Appleton business owner Chris Hanson easily beat two fellow Republicans Tuesday to win a spot on the Nov. 2 ballot for the 57th Assembly District race.

In her first run for political office, Hanson, president of Hanson **Benefits**, beat another political newcomer, Howard Miller, and veteran Outagamie County Board member Charles "Chuck" Schmidt.

Hanson said her experience as a business owner appealed to people seeking more fiscal responsibility from government.

"When I talked about the state needing to be run as a business, that resonated with voters," Hanson said.

"I know how to meet a balance sheet and represent small businesses hurt by continuing tax increases and burdensome government regulations."

The district, which includes most of Appleton and a portion of Little Chute, is traditionally Republican, but Appleton Democrat Penny Bernard Schaber put it in the Democratic column two years ago.

5th Assembly District: Vandebroek Town Chairman Jim Steineke won a tight three-way race for the Republican nomination.

With all 28 precincts reporting, he won by 7 percentage points over Craig Fletcher of Green Bay and Dave Landwehr of Hobart.

Steineke faces Democrat Mert Summers of Lawrence on Nov. 2.

1st Senate District: Former state Rep. Frank Lasee of De Pere defeated Dave Hutchison of Luxemburg and Jon Soyering of Green Bay. Lasee will face Kimberly Democrat Montgomery Elmer on Nov. 2.

The incumbent, state Sen. Alan Lasee of Rockland, did not seek re-election.