New Senator Profiles: Brenda Council and Galen Hadley

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ach week between now and the end of the year, we are profiling two of Nebraska's newly elected senators. This is the fourth in that series. Sixteen senators will begin their first term January 7, 2009.

Brenda Council, Omaha (District 11), won the District 11 race for the Legislature by the widest margin of any non-incumbent, carrying 84 percent of the vote in this north Omaha district. Council succeeds Sen. Ernie Chambers, who held the seat since 1971 but could not run again due to term limits. Council, together with Tanya Cook, who was elected to serve District 13, are the first two black women to be elected to the Nebraska Legislature.

Council, an Omaha attorney, has served on the Nebraska Commission of Industrial Relations. She has also served on the Board of the Nebraska School Boards Association, the Nebraska Board of Educational Lands and Funds, and the Nebraska Commission on Post Secondary Education. A native of Omaha, Council received a Bachelors of Science Degree in secondary education from UN-L and her Juris Doctorate from Creighton. Council and her husband have two children.

The Omaha World-Herald endorsed Council, who is a Democrat. She has held prior elected positions, including the Omaha Board of Education and Omaha City Council.

Galen Hadley, Kearney (District 37), defeated Jim George in a close race to succeed Sen. Joel Johnson, who was term-limited. District 37 comprises Kearney County and a small portion of Buffalo County, which includes the City of Kearney. Hadley carried Kearney County, while George won by a narrow margin in Buffalo.

Hadley is a retired professor and administrator of the University of Nebraska-Kearney. He served as Dean of the College of Business & Technology there, as well as Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs. He holds a Bachelors Degree and Doctorate in accounting from UN-L, having received his Masters Degree in business administration from the University of Colorado. He and his wife live in Kearney, where he has been a lifelong resident.

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Like his opponent, Hadley is a Republican. Hadley was endorsed by the Omaha World-Herald. He has previously served on the Kearney City Council and as Mayor of Kearney.

For more information on the Nebraska Legislature, please contact Andy Pollock at apollock@remboltludtke.com. Andy is a registered lobbyist at the Nebraska Legislature.

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