

# City, state approve 3 of 4 referendums

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Evanston voters approved city referendums allowing more liquor sales and a new mayoral election procedure, and all of Illinois voters approved a state referendum supporting crime victim rights yesterday.

Final figures on a referendum to increase education funding were not available, but with 81 percent of precincts reporting, 58 percent voted yes and 42 percent voted no. Three-fifths, or 60 percent of the voters have to approve the referendum before it can become a constitutional amendment.

■ The referendum to expand liquor sales to grocery stores throughout Evanston was approved 17,523 to 11,600, with 74 of 76 precincts reporting.

Still, some residents said they worried about the referendum's passage.

"I would like to see the revenue stay in Evanston," said John Smetko, a clinical psychologist who received his Ph.D. from Northwestern in 1982. "But I did have tinges of doubt. I don't want to see the proliferation of liquor establishments."

Nick Sklivagos, co-owner of Evanston 1st Liquors, said he voted against it.

"I was confident that the people of Evanston would not allow such a thing to happen," he said. "They don't want to see their neighborhoods deteriorate to the quality of Howard Street where there are winos on every corner," Sklivagos said.

He added that he was worried that passage of the referendum would reduce his business.

"It's not like food," Sklivagos said. "There are a limited number of people who drink. If someone wants to buy something, they are now going to go next door, not to my store."

Glen Ruff, who said he was a recovering alcoholic, said he feared that liquor sales would lead to more drug use.

"First it's alcohol. Then it's drugs," the unemployed security officer, 33, said. "It's a plus that I can stand here drinking a Coke when a year ago I used to hold a beer."

■ The city's voters also approved 15,116 to 12,506 a measure that would add a primary election to the mayor's race if more than two candidates appear on the ballot.

From that primary, only the top two candidates could run for mayor.

Woody Berman, Cook County's chief fi-

nancial officer, said he supported the mayoral referendum and discounted concerns that its passage might lead to more partisan politics in Evanston. "Shouldn't people be elected by 50 percent of the voters?" the former state representative for Evanston said. "I think non-partisan politics is an illusion."

Evanston attorney Dick Stillerman said he saw no need to change the current mayoral election procedures.

"I think the present system is fine," Stillerman said. "If you are going to have run-off elections, you should do it for every office, not just pick out the mayor's office."

Rob Fairlie, 27, an economics graduate student at NU said, "I voted 'yes,' but it's not something I have a strong opinion about. I was voting for change, so I voted 'yes' on everything."

■ Illinois voters approved the crime victims amendment, which will include specific rights in the state constitution that will protect victims. Supporters of the legislation said it will equalize the rights of defendants and victims. They also believe it will help police and prosecutors.

Opponents of the bill said that it was not necessary because adequate statutory laws protecting victims already exist, they said.

Karen Edwards, treasurer at NU's Women's Coalition, said she was pleased that the bill passed.

"It is especially important for victims of sexual assault. (Victims) are often put on trial. The burden is on them."

Edwards said she is not sure what the exact effect of the amendment will be.

"It is one step, but I don't know what it will do," she said.

■ Voters rejected an amendment to the state constitution that would have increased state funding for education and distributed it equally among elementary and high schools.

With 81 percent of the precincts reporting, 58 percent of voters had approved the legislation. Adoption requires a three-fifths majority.

"I think it's one of those things where you have to vote your heart," said Evanston Township High School Board President Carol Mullins. "I think there are too many competing interests. I certainly hope it comes out on top."

State Sen. Arthur Berman (D-Chicago), who proposed the bill, said that the state funded 48 percent of a public education in 1974 and now provides only 33 percent. He said the bill would have forced legislators to put education first.