



Rowden elected to 2nd term as state representative for 44th District

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By Guimel Sibingo

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COLUMBIA — Republican Caleb Rowden won a second term as state representative in Missouri's 44th District on Tuesday.

Rowden defeated Democrat and Hallsville alderman Tom Pauley, who was making his first bid for political office.

The vote

- Rowden: 5,246
- Pauley: 3,058

The winner

Cheers broke out at the Boone County Republican watch party at Inside Columbia Magazine when Rick Rowden announced his son's victory. Throughout the the night, Caleb Rowden looked relaxed as he mingled with supporters and his family.

Dressed in a white-and-blue checkered shirt, a suit jacket and slacks, Rowden joked and laughed with supporters. He kept his phone in hand so he could check results periodically on the Boone County clerk's website.

When the final results were in, he shook hands with and embraced supporters.

Rowden said that he felt good and was relieved that he had won.

"We felt pretty good going in, but you never take it for granted," he said. "You work hard."

Rowden was humbled by the number of votes he received.

"That means a lot of Democrats voted for me," he said. "It's something that I've always thought should be something to strive after, is to get folks that aren't always going to agree with you on everything to vote for you."

Rowden choked up while expressing his gratitude.

"It's pretty humbling," he said. "It's a good night."

Pauley

Pauley, who held a watch party at CoMo Smoke and Fire with Democratic congressional candidate Nate Irvin, said he believes his campaign went very well. He was aware it would be difficult to unseat Rowden.

"Going into this, we knew this was going to be an uphill challenge," he said. "We had no idea it was going to be so incredibly hard to raise money."

Pauley said he hopes Rowden will do the things he promised.

"That'd be really nice if he really does it," he said. "His track record proves that won't happen. He says one thing, then does something else."

Pauley said he plans to run again. He said he'll be keeping notes on Rowden's legislative work so he can call attention to any broken promises.

What's next

Rowden will be sworn into his second term Jan. 12, when the Missouri General Assembly convenes for its 2015 session.

He said his priorities will include improving education funding. He also wants to improve the economy. He said he wants college students who graduate to have a safe place to return to in Missouri.

"We lack pretty significantly there, and we have a lot of work to do," Rowden said. "I think if we focus on the right priorities, we got a good couple years ahead."

[You can read a profile of Rowden here.](#)

Supervising editor is [Scott Swafford](#).