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Mulvaney wins District 16 Senate seat



Photo by Aaron Morrison

By Christopher Sardelli - Reporter

Mick Mulvaney shakes hands with Barry Faile at the Lancaster County Administration Building during the vote count Tuesday night. Mulvaney, a Republican from Indian Land, beat Democrat Mandy Powers Norrell of Lancaster in the S.C. Senate District 16 race. Faile won the county sheriff's race. Faile, a Democrat, was unopposed.

Republican Mick Mulvaney has won the state S.C. Senate District 16 race over Democratic opponent Mandy Powers Norrell.

According to unofficial results from the S.C. State Election Commission, Mulvaney won with 53.7 percent of the vote, which was 25,125 votes. Norrell trailed with 21,626 votes, or 46.22 percent of the vote. This includes votes from Lancaster and York counties.

Mulvaney has won the seat in a race that has focused just as much on education and jobs as on rumors and accusations. Mulvaney, who was the incumbent S.C. House District 45 House representative, and Democratic candidate and Lancaster City Attorney Mandy Powers Norrell ran against each other for the seat, previously held by Sen. Greg Gregory of Lancaster. Gregory had decided not to run for reelection this year. District 16 includes the northern part of Lancaster County, from the town of Heath Springs to the North Carolina line. It also includes the Fort Mill area in York County.

Mulvaney, 41, an Indian Land resident, was excited about the race's "tremendous turnout."

"I am very pleased," Mulvaney said. "Turnout was impressive and I was encouraged that the negative campaigning against me didn't seem to have any impact on our race."

He is already looking toward to the first issues he will tackle as state senator. He said focusing on transparency, especially roll call voting, will be important because "it impacts everything we do, from the budget to regulatory process." Mulvaney also vows to focus on the economy and creating jobs.

Norrell has conceded the race and plans to speak with Mulvaney soon. She said she wishes him the best in the Senate."

"It's humbling to know that several thousand people wanted me to be senator," Norrell said.

"I'm grateful to my husband, family and the hardworking people who worked on the campaign."

Now that the election is over, she plans on taking a vacation to Disneyland with her family, and then placing her full focus on her family and clients.

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