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urged the state's chief executive to drop his confrontational attack style and adopt a more non-partisan approach to governing.

"Oklahoma needs a statesman, not the partisan attack dog we've seen for the past year and a half," said Taylor.

Taylor took particular exception with what he called the governor's "frequent personal attacks" on incumbent Democrats and his involvement in raising funds "to help bankroll campaign attack ads" against those incumbents.

"Those kind of gutter tactics may work well on the east coast or in Washington, D.C., but Oklahomans have consistently rejected them," Taylor said.

Like Cox, Taylor said there are many pressing issues currently confronting Oklahoma. After that, however, the two men part company.

"We're optimistic and positive about Oklahoma and its future," Cox said. "The disagreement is about how to get there. The Democrats are happy with the status quo, and like I said, the governor and his administration believe there is much more that can be done to make this state a player on the national and international scene."

For his part, Taylor urged the governor "to stop campaigning and begin cooperating."

"I know running Oklahoma down has become somewhat of a sport for our governor, but it just isn't productive and it apparently isn't very helpful politically judging from the election results," Taylor said. "I'm willing to extend my hand to Governor Keating, but only if he will agree to stop the bad-mouthing and name-calling."

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY PROPELS APPLE TO WIN
IN CORPORATION COMMISSION RACE**

**By Shawn Ashley
Staff Writer**

■(GIT) Republican incumbent Ed Apple won his first election to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission early Wednesday morning, besting former state Democratic Rep. Wanda Jo Peltier in what became one of the most watched, hotly contested and nerve wracking races in the state.

Apple captured 52.3 percent of the vote to Peltier's 47.7 percent of the vote after ballots from Oklahoma County, which accounted for nearly 12 percent of the votes cast in the race were finally counted early Wednesday morning. A glitch in the county's computerized ballot counting system left election watchers wondering who would win the race late Tuesday as an early lead for Peltier slowly began to fade before disappearing completely shortly before midnight.

From that point on, everyone, including the two candidates, were left in suspense as state and county election board officials worked to correct the problems with the Oklahoma County system. Final results of the race were not available until sometime early Wednesday morning.

It was obvious at that point that Oklahoma County voters would ultimately decide the race. Although Peltier's early lead was gone, the former lawmaker remained within striking distance of Apple, who was appointed to the commission by Governor

Frank Keating, until the Oklahoma County votes were added into the mix and Apple became the unofficial winner.

A mere 50,206 votes separated the two candidates in the final tally of the statewide race.

**PRE-FILING OF BILLS
FOR 46TH LEGISLATURE
STARTS THIS MONTH**

**By Gerry Cherry
Staff Writer**

■(GIT) Every spring the Oklahoma legislature decides the following session's important dates. Last year, in the rush of the final week, no deadline dates were set. With no dates decided before adjournment of the 45th legislature, Oklahoma's legislators are waiting until the Speaker of the house is chosen to see what dates and deadlines will be in effect for the house for the 46th session.

Former Speaker Glen Johnson allowed members to start preliminary committee assignments before the formal start of the second session of the 45th Legislature last February. No one is sure how the new speaker will approach this task. Democrats will caucus and elect a new speaker, Thursday, Nov. 7.

Until November 20, no bills can be prefiled except by senators in even-numbered districts, who were not up for re-election this year. They can file bills November 18. All the other legislators, house and senate, must be sworn in on November 19, before they are officially in the legislature. After swearing-in, legislators can pre-file bills.

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trict 49 where Republican challenger Owen Laughlin defeated incumbent Don Williams.

How Wednesday morning's results will figure into the governor's future plans is also unclear. Expressing agreement with one of his top advisors, Secretary of State and Republican political consultant Tom Cole, Keating seemed to indicate before that the outcome of the general election could significantly influence his decision to seek reelection. The formula appeared to be simple — The more Republicans that won, the higher Keating's chances of launching a reelection bid.

A collective gain of three seats, which cements the GOP's control of Keating's veto in the House and moves the party closer to control in the Senate, could arguably be the "more, more, more" Republicans Keating said were needed to make a reelection bid attractive.

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GIT, Inc.

P.O. Box 61206

Oklahoma City, OK 73146-1206

Office (405) 528-2546

Fax (405) 521-9807

Net: gitinc@ionet.net

Web: <http://www.exoweb.com/git>

Darwin P. Maxey, Publisher

Mary Millen, Editor

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