

**Committee Posts, continued from page 1**

As chair of the committee, Williams pledged to place a renewed emphasis on Oklahoma students, whom she called "the most important factor in the education equation."

"It seems as though students often get lost in the shuffle of all the heated debate and discussion over the future of our public schools. I'm going to make sure our educational efforts are focused squarely on them. Improving their learning opportunities should be our number one priority," Williams said.

Henry and Williams will assume their duties as committee chairs following their swearing in on Tuesday.

Other Senate committee members will remain unchanged, including:

- Appropriations: Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole
- Agriculture and Rural Development: Paul Muegge, D-Tonkawa;
- Business and Labor: Lewis Long, D-Glenpool;
- Deregulation: Herb Rozell, D-Tahlequah;
- Economic Development: Ted Fisher, D-Sapulpa;
- Energy, Environmental Resources and Regulatory Affairs, Kevin Easley, D-Broken Arrow;
- Finance: Dick Wilkerson, D-Atwood;
- General Government: Trish Weedn, D-Purcell;
- Government Operations and Agency Oversight: Maxine Horner, D-Tulsa;
- Human Resources: Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City;
- Rules: Robert Kerr, D-Altus;

- Sunset Review: J. Berry Harrison, D-Fairfax;
- Tourism and Recreation: Dave Herbert, D-Midwest City;
- Transportation: Gene Stipe, D-McAlester;
- Veterans and Military Affairs: Sam Helton, D-Lawton; and
- Wildlife: Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta.

The futures of the Infrastructure and Strategic Planning Committee, formerly chaired by Williams, and the Science, Technology and Telecommunications, which was previously chaired by Jack Bell, who lost his reelection bid in the August primary, have not yet been determined.

## ELECTION BOARD CERTIFIES FINAL RESULTS

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT)The State Election Board certified the results of the final two races from the Nov. 5 general election on Monday, setting the stage for the swearing-in Tuesday of all the 46th Legislature's members.

At issue were the results in House District 21, where incumbent Sean Voskuhl, D-Marshall, defeated Curt Roggow, R-Enid, and Senate District 41, where Mike Morgan, D-Stillwater, defeated Randy Wedel, R-Stillwater.

Decisions were reached last week in challenges of those results filed by Roggow and Wedel, respectively, clearing the way for the election board to certify the results as final Monday.

Roggow had requested a recount of the ballots cast in the three counties in the district and also alleged irregularities in some of the votes cast for Voskuhl. In the recount, Voskuhl actually gained seven votes, while Roggow's total was unaffected, giving the incumbent an 18-vote advantage over his opponent.

In a ruling issued last Wednesday, Roggow's irregularities allegations were dismissed.

The situation was similar in Senate District 21, where Wedel alleged voting irregularities. A Lincoln County judge agreed with Wedel on some of the ballots identified in his filing, but it was not enough to overcome the 32-vote difference by which Morgan originally won the contest.

Roggow and Wedel could have appealed those decisions to the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

## CORRECTIONS BOARD DISCUSSES NUMBERS

By Shawn Ashley  
Staff Writer

■(GIT) Oklahoma's Department of Corrections seemingly found 79 empty beds Monday when department staff members outlined their findings in a recently conducted capacity study.

The findings, which must be reviewed internally before being accepted by the Board of Corrections, were the result of a study requested by board chairman Michael Roark, who asked that department staff review the board's so-called certified capacity number.

The results, Roark and other board members admitted Monday, were both confusing and disturbing.

Using a formula specified in state statutes in combination with the administrative code produced by the Department of Central Services and a nationally-accepted fire and safety code, David Miller, chief of state and operations, told the board that the department has the capacity to house 11,619 inmates. That number, Miller explained, was based on an assumption present in the fire and safety code which required 120-square-foot or gross floor area per person.

However, Miller noted, the standard outlined in the code is often exceeded because the department cannot refuse to accept offenders sentenced to its custody. Working with regional directors, facility wardens and superintendents, the director of the department has established another number reflective of the ability of each facility to take in inmates above the 120-square-foot standard. That figure, Miller told the board, is 15,011 inmates.

Roark summarily rejected the first number, saying its foundation — the 120-square-foot requirement — was unrealistic. The board chairman said he placed greater faith in the second number, which reflected the department director's and facility wardens' hands-on determination of facilities' capacity.

Other members, too, expressed reservations about accepting the first number, citing the 120-square-foot requirement.

Board member Calvino Muse, Sr., however, warned his fellow board members not to look only at the numbers as a solution to the department's problem.

"If we're overcrowded," Muse said, "we have to seek sources to get un-crowded. This study does not mean anything unless we do

*See Corrections, page 3*

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