

Sargent, Ballweg cruise through primaries

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State Reps. Melissa Sargent, D-Madison, and Joan Ballweg, R-Markesan, both cruised in through their primaries in their quests to jump from the Assembly to the state Senate.

Sargent declared victory over Monona Grove School Board President Andrew McKinney just after 9 p.m., writing in an email that it was “truly an honor to be chosen” as the Dem candidate in the race to replace outgoing Sen. Mark Miller, D-Monona.

“Together, we have fought to lift up folks from all across Wisconsin, to move our state forward, and to plant the seeds so that future generations may thrive,” she said. “I look forward to continuing this work while serving the 16th Senate District.”

Sargent, who claimed 77 percent of the vote, is now set to face Republican Scott Barker in November for the heavily Dem seat.

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Ballweg told WisPolitics.com just before 11 p.m. she is declaring victory her race against Ken Van Dyke to replace longtime Sen. Luther Olsen, R-Ripon.

The Markesan Republican appears cruised to a sizeable victory, claiming 69-31 edge with 92 percent of the vote in.

Ballweg will face Dem Joni Anderson in November.