

## Ky. Republicans choose Fletcher

by UPI

LEXINGTON, Ky. - Kentucky Gov. Ernie Fletcher overcame a political hiring scandal to win the Republican primary in his campaign for re-election.

Fletcher defeated former U.S. Rep. Anne Northup and businessman Billy Harper in Tuesday's primary, and will face Democratic former Lt. Gov. Steve Beshear in the general election in November.

Fletcher said in his victory speech that he would work during a second term to push to development alternative energy and promote education and health care reform, the Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal reported Wednesday.

"If you run for re-election talking about issues, talking about the vision, and talking about what you can do for Kentuckians ... you can win," he said.

Northup gave the governor her support in her concession speech.

"It's his turn to move on and to represent our party, be the standard bearer," she said.

A judge last August dismissed misdemeanor charges against Fletcher, who had been accused of orchestrating a plan to use civil service jobs to reward political supporters. Under the agreement, Fletcher was not required to admit any wrongdoing, but he acknowledged that others in his administration acted improperly.

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