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# Taylor whips Liberal field

By LOUISE THROWER

**S**ITTING Hume MP Alby Schultz has thrown down the gauntlet to The Nationals after his favoured candidate, Angus Taylor, convincingly snared Liberal Party pre-selection for the seat on Saturday.

Mr Taylor, 44, beat off Ed Storey, Ross Hampton and Rick Mandelson in the ballot, decided by 33 selectors at the Goulburn Soldiers Club.

The *Goulburn Post* understands Mr Taylor captured 26 votes, with the rest dispersed between the other three candidates.

Party officials refused to comment on the process or allow Mr Taylor to speak to media until the state executive endorsed him, possibly this week. Observers and selectors were also forbidden to talk publicly.

But an exuberant Mr Schultz said the result was a popular one and "lived up to (his) expectations."

The win almost certainly sets the stage for a three-cornered contest in

### At a glance

- Angus Taylor won Liberal pre-selection for Hume on Saturday with 26 votes.
- A three-cornered contest for the seat is highly likely.

Hume given Mr Schultz's retirement at the next election. But it's likely to hot up soon. Mr Schultz, a vocal critic of The Nationals, said Mr Taylor would take them on.

"(My advice is) go out there and debate them," he said.

"This bloke has a greater capacity to appeal to the people than any candidate The Nationals can put up... His debating skills are something The Nationals won't want to face in the public arena."

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**HURDLE CLEARED:** Angus Taylor was a relieved man following his Liberal Party pre-selection in the Federal seat of Hume against three other candidates on Saturday.

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