

Commissioner primary victors face runoff

Tuesday's primary race for the two open Lane County Board of Commissioner seats was consistently close in South Eugene, while North Eugene voters were more decisive.

The final decision for both races will be made in the November election, since none of the candidates captured the required 50 percent of the vote to secure an immediate victory.

Current Eugene city councilor Scott Lieuallen took an early lead in the field of seven North Eugene candidates and held it to the end.

Incumbent Jerry Rust led Mel Jackson by a narrow margin. The other contender for the South Eugene seat, Harold Crooks, trailed far behind throughout the election tallies.

By 8:45 p.m., Lieuallen led Hale with 29 to 12 percent of the vote. Rust was ahead of Jackson with 44 to 40 percent of the vote, while Crooks trailed with 10 percent.

Throughout the evening, tally percentages remained essentially the same in both races. By 10 p.m. Lieuallen led Hale 2,199 to 965 votes with

Rose and Wooten closely trailing Hale. Rust tipped the scales with 4,198 votes to Jackson's 3,718.

By 4:00 a.m., with 100 per-

cent of the precincts reporting, North Eugene supported Lieuallen with 3,892 votes, to Hale's 1,731 votes.

Rust edged Jackson with

8,045 votes. Jackson totaled 7,068 votes.

"I have to feel pretty good about this," Rust said, calling

confidence to get close to 50 percent in a three-way race."

Rust said his strategy in the runoff election will be to speak to the issues. The people of South Eugene were short-changed in the primary, he said, because the other candidates failed to take stands on issues such as energy, land use and fiscal policy.

"Now I'll have a chance to really look at the issues and really get involved," Jackson said, anticipating debates with Rust on such issues as double taxation, the county tax base and environmental concerns.

"I feel a lot of unhappiness from the voters," Jackson said. "Some of it showed up in the votes for me and Crooks." Scott Lieuallen said he expected victory from the beginning with strong support from neighborhood groups. "I've always said neighborhoods are the basic building blocks of the community."

"Jim (Hale) is a worthy and articulate opponent," Lieuallen said, predicting "a good clean series of debates over the annexation of Santa Clara, energy and the county tax base."



Jerry Rust



Scott Lieuallen

Emerald photos

Voters choose 3 EWEB reps

Sarah Hendrickson upset incumbent Richard Freeman for a position on the Eugene Water and Electric Board, while incumbents John Tiffany and Camilla Pratt both retained their positions in Tuesday's primary election.

Hendrickson captured more than 50 percent of the vote to claim the EWEB position representing Wards 6 and 7. Freeman and candidate James Howlett each totaled about 20 percent of the vote.

After learning of her victory, Hendrickson expressed relief and said she will spend the next month carefully watching the EWEB board to begin the transition into her new post.

"EWEB needs to continue the policy of change that has been set up in the last two years," she said, adding that dealing with the current energy shortage is the utility's biggest hurdle.

"In order for these changes to happen, there must be unanimous backing of energy conservation," Hendrickson said this backing must come from the community and the city, as well as EWEB.

"We must get everyone behind it, or else we won't have the will to deal with what's going on," she said.

In her campaign, Hendrickson stressed that EWEB must include the weatherization of residential, commercial and industrial buildings in its future energy plans.

Hendrickson supports the development of renewable alternatives to coal and nuclear power,

such as cogeneration, low-head hydro, geothermal, wind and solar. She opposes regional power planning in the Northwest by the federal government.

In Wards 1 and 8, current EWEB president and 18-year board member John Tiffany defeated Jon Silvermoon by a margin of about 2-1 to remain on the board.

Tiffany was out of the country for a month prior to the election and did not return for the voting. Conservation and the development of new power sources are current EWEB priorities, he said.

Tiffany also advocated non-polluting, renewable resources.

In the most controversial of the three EWEB races, Camilla Pratt easily outdistanced John Stewart for the position representing Wards 2 and 3.

Pratt, a one-term EWEB member, said in her campaign that conservation is the utility's most important task for the future. Like Tiffany, Pratt said there is a need for new generation facilities — as long as they are not coal or nuclear plants.

Pratt said she favors regional power legislation, but not the sort of bill now being considered by Congress, because it would mean federal regulation of the region's power. She also endorsed renewable energy sources that can become cost effective and "humanly manageable."

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