

MIDTERM ELECTION | 2022

Fitch ahead in tight race for mayor

Schimmoller trails by 229 votes, but election still too close to call

BY TIM TRAINOR

Redmond Spokesman

Ed Fitch is leading in a tight race for mayor of Redmond.

According to unofficial election tallies, Fitch has a 229-vote lead over Ben Schimmoller in the race to replace longtime mayor George Endicott.

Fitch has 4,728 votes, Schimmoller has 4,499, Jay Patrick has 4,338 and Charles Baer is fourth with 213. All Redmond precincts have been unofficially counted, though mail-in ballots are still being tallied. It's unknown how many ballots are still to be counted, but Deschutes County Clerk estimated a few thousand across the entire county.

As of press time, Fitch was not ready to declare victory.

"If these initial votes hold it will be a sign that Redmond is ready for a change," said Fitch on Election Night.

By the next morning, the count had tightened considerably.

"This is a close race and I'm not sure I've won it," he said.

Schimmoller said he felt it was "pretty unlikely" that he would pull out the victory, but he would watch



Fitch



Schimmoller

See Mayor / A6

Redmond Parks District rec center bond leading

\$49M bond for new recreation center pulls ahead in unofficial results, operations levy likely failing

BY NICK ROSENBERGER

Redmond Spokesman

After 14 years and two failed attempts to pass a recreation center bond in 2008 and 2019, the Redmond Area Parks and Recreation District is on the cusp of building a new facility.

Supporters of the bond knew it would be a close call heading into election night on Tuesday and their predictions came true: according to the latest tallies, the \$49 million bond is 664 votes ahead.

The accompanying five-year levy to support operations, however, was failing by over 4,500 votes.

Election results will not be certified until December.

"It's so close," said Katie Hammer, parks district executive director, of the bond.

Hammer said if the 20-year bond is able to pass while the levy does not, the recreation district will build the facility and could try to pass an operating levy at a later date.

Zack Harmon, a park district board member, said they have multiple options to go out for a future levy but that it wasn't altogether necessary for the facility.

Matt Gilman, the chairman of the parks district board of directors,



Supporters of the proposed Redmond recreation center check their phones for the first wave of election results at Initiative Brewing on Oct. 8 in Redmond.

Nick Rosenberger/Spokesman

said he felt good being about 660 votes ahead for the bond but that he's not "counting his chickens."

The levy, however, is a different story.

"The levy is not going to pass," Gilman said. "I'm okay with that."

The parks district put the levy on the ballot, he said, because they were trying to be as transparent as possible so that when they built the facility they wouldn't surprise people with

"It's so close."

— Katie Hammer, parks district executive director, speaking of the bond's 664-vote lead

previously said they'd hoped programming and activities would fund the facility after the five-year levy expired. Additionally, the recreation district can use the next few years during construction to save the funds needed to operate the facility.

However, the district may need to go out for another operating levy in the future depending on costs.

See Recreation / A6

LOCAL



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HELPING VETERANS

Central Oregon Veterans Ranch works to restore land, people

BY GEORGE PAVEN

CO Media Group

The night of his 32nd birthday, Robert Shaw went to his truck and pointed a pistol at his head, certain he wanted to die.

A husband and father of two young children, Shaw had been drinking — as he often did — to blot out the pain of trauma and abuse he suffered while in the U.S. Army.

"That day was the point where I was done," he said. "I didn't want to be around anybody. I wasn't good enough for my kids, for my wife — no one."

Shaw doesn't remember exactly what happened next, only that he didn't pull the trigger. He woke up the next morning at his home in Bend and several days later arranged to talk with a peer support counselor for Deschutes County.



George Plaven/Capital Press

A sign marks the entrance to the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch between Bend and Redmond.

The counselor recommended Shaw visit the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch, a 19-acre working ranch in the juniper-dotted high desert

where veterans of all ages and eras can farm, tend animals and poultry, and lend each other emotional support.

It took some convincing, but Shaw ultimately agreed. He was no stranger to agriculture, having participated in 4-H and FFA as a kid growing up in Northern California.

Before enlisting in the Army, Shaw also worked on a commercial alfalfa farm and pumpkin patch where he did everything from field labor to equipment repair.

About a month after arriving at the Central Oregon Veterans Ranch in the summer of 2021, Shaw said he could feel himself begin to change. He was opening up to others. Having somewhere to go, and something to do, gave him a renewed sense of purpose.

See Veterans / A5

WEATHER FORECAST

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TUESDAY
Cloudy
41/15



WEDNESDAY
Sunny
47/21



THURSDAY
Sunny
46/18



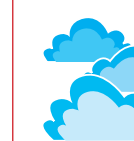
FRIDAY
Cloudy
38/11



SATURDAY
Partly cloudy
39/16



SUNDAY
Partly cloudy
42/23



MONDAY
Cloudy
46/27

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