

SPECIAL DISTRICT ELECTIONS

Initial results from Tuesday's elections in Central Oregon • Coverage starts on A1

IN BRIEF

Area levies failing; new face on library board

Bulletin staff report

In other special district election news:

- Voters appear to have defeated a five-year local option tax levy for the **La Pine Park and Recreation District** by a 2-to-1 margin, according to early unofficial results. The levy would have cost property owners in the district 27 cents per \$1,000 in assessed property value and money would have supported and expanded youth programs, expanded wellness, fitness and outdoor programs for adults and fund maintenance and technology upgrades.
- The **Cloverdale Rural Fire Protection District** appears to have failed to pass a five-year levy to support better fire and emergency medical response. The levy would have cost \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed property value and would have funded the hiring of three firefighter/EMTs and an ambulance. It was failing by a wide margin in early, unofficial results Tuesday night.

- Challenger Anne Ness appears to have defeated incumbent Martha Lawler in a rare contested race for the **Deschutes Public Library Board**. Ness was leading 55% to 44% in early, unofficial results Tuesday.
- Mercedes Cook appeared to be winning the three-way race for a seat on the **Redmond Area Park and Recreation District Board**. Cook had 40% of the vote in early returns, besting Lena Berry (30%) and Jeremiah Pedersen (28%). Matthew Gilman was beating Jon Golden for a different seat on the Redmond park board, leading 65% to 33% in early results Tuesday night.

Sisters school bond appears to pass

Also, board expected to get a new member

BY KYLE SPURR

The Bulletin

Voters in the Sisters School District appear to have approved a bond measure for a new elementary school and elected a new member to the school board, according to early unofficial returns in Tuesday's special district election.

The \$33.8 million bond was passing with 1,052 votes, or 62.3%, in favor. It would fund a new, larger building for the Sisters Elementary School. School officials said the proposed building would ease the

crowding at the school, which has been welcoming more students than the current building can hold.

The larger building would also be built near the middle school and high school and allow the school district to make the elementary school K-5, rather than the current K-4.

The bond won't raise taxes for Sisters residents. It will retain the existing tax rate in place since residents passed a bond in 2001 to build Sisters High School.

In the Sisters School Board elections, Position 1 candidate Jencia Cogdill was leading Rodney Cooper with 63.81% of the vote. Early unofficial returns showed Cogdill with



Cogdill



Jones

1,012 votes to Cooper's 568 votes. Both candidates are newcomers who are seeking the seat that opened when board member Jay Wilkins did not seek reelection.

Cogdill, 43, who has a daughter in the fourth grade, was motivated to run for the first time to offer a parent's perspective on the board.

Cogdill, a manager of customer experience at Les

Schwab Tire Centers, also plans to use her marketing and consulting experience from a previous career in Eugene and Portland.

Cooper, 66, works as a substitute teacher for the school district. He taught K-8 for 32 years in the small Lane County town of Crow, west of Eugene. He wanted to bring a teacher's perspective to the board.

In the Position 5 race, incumbent Edie Jones was leading challenger Kevin Eckert with 67.61% of the vote. Early unofficial returns showed Jones had 1,052 votes over 498 for Eckert.

Jones, 82, was appointed to the school board in February

2020. Jones joined the school board after a long career in early childhood education and work with nonprofit organizations. She said she would use her experience to help guide the school district as it expands the elementary school.

Eckert, 48, an architect and builder who owns Build LLC, based in Seattle and Sisters, was a first-time candidate for elected office. He intended to share his professional experience with the board as it navigated building the new elementary school.

Board member David Thorsett ran unopposed Tuesday for his Position 2 seat.

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Bend-La Pine

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McPherson Douglass, with nearly 70% of the vote, appeared to defeat challenger Maria Lopez-Dauenhauer, who had about 30% of the vote, in early results Tuesday night.

"I'm excited to go back to work and focus on making up for lost learning and the mental health needs of our students," said McPherson Douglass.

LeGrand, with about 65% of the vote, also appeared to beat his challenger, Wendy Imel, who had about 35% of the vote in early results.

Olson held about 66% of the vote,

"I'm excited to go back to work and focus on making up for lost learning and the mental health needs of our students."

— Carrie McPherson Douglass, incumbent on the Bend-La Pine School Board

seemingly defeating Gregg Henton, who had about 34% of the vote in early results.

The closest race was between Llerandi and Jon Haffner. But Llerandi still held a strong lead in early returns Tuesday night, with nearly 60% of the vote

compared to about 38% for Haffner.

Llerandi said she was excited to join the school board and get up to speed.

"Thank you to all the voters; thank you for believing in me and for voting for transparency, honesty and the kids," she said.

LeGrand shied away from declaring victory after the initial results dropped.

"I just want things to be finalized completely," he said. "But I'm still hopeful."

Olson felt similarly. "I'm looking good, and I feel good about that," she said. "But no final response until every vote's counted."

The two competing slates of candidates were each supported by a

separate political action committee. However, the PAC that supported Republican-endorsed candidates spent much more money.

"I think tonight's results show that our community demonstrated it's not money, but voters, who decide elections," said McPherson Douglass.

The Republican-backed candidates had extremely minimal, or no, contact with local media and refused to participate in the local nonpartisan candidate forum. However, they did chat with nonlocal conservative pundits, including Lars Larson and multiple Fox News commentators.

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Parks

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Hovekamp, a Central Oregon Community College biology professor, has been on the board since 2015 and is the current board chair. He said he was pleased with the results.

"My colleague Deb Schoen has been on the board for some time. I am really happy to see her strong results," said Hovekamp. "Zavi has got a

great lead, and he will be an excellent addition to the board, so it's really very exciting."

Hovekamp added that the election was well run by all the candidates.

"I believe voters appreciate campaigns that are substantive but still conducted with dignity and decorum," Hovekamp said.

In the third contested race for a Bend park board seat, Schoen was leading Elizabeth Hughes Weide by a wide

margin, with around 74%, according to early, unofficial results.

Schoen, the incumbent, has been on the board since January 2020. She said big issues to tackle include buying land for parks in underserved areas and dealing with challenges presented by the growth in Bend.

In comments after the campaign, she praised her opponent for "running for all the right reasons" and said she

hoped Hughes Weide would continue to be involved in the district. Schoen added that Borja will bring a fresh perspective to the board.

"Equity and inclusion is a priority for the board, but we don't have the lived experiences that Zavi does," said Schoen. "I think he is going to bring a great perspective as well as his incredible energy and enthusiasm."

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ELSEWHERE IN OREGON

Oregon Health Authority director losing reelection bid to Sherwood School Board

The leader of the state agency that helped craft guidelines for operating Oregon's schools during the pandemic appears to have lost his bid for a third term on the Sherwood school board.

Oregon Health Authority Director Patrick Allen trailed challenger Duncan Nyangoro's with 46% of the vote in partial returns as Tuesday night. Those totals are out of nearly 4,600 ballots counted by the Washington County elections office in the race for that seat so far.

Nyangoro, an auditor for the SAIF Corporation, spent \$9,000 to unseat Allen. The incumbent raised about half that amount.

Nyangoro ran on a promise to fully reopen the district's schools in the fall and criticized Allen and Gov. Kate Brown for not doing so in campaign material.

Tax for Oregon Historical Society museum wins big

Multnomah County voters overwhelmingly approved extending a local levy to support the Oregon Historical Society and make admission to its museum free to county residents. Countywide, 76% of voters said yes to renewing the small levy for another five years, according to partial returns. It will cost property owners 5 cents for every \$1,000 of assessed property value.

— Bulletin wire reports

Redmond

Continued from A1

Michelle Salinas' lead over Michael Summers was even smaller, with an 81-vote difference in early results for the Position 2 seat. Salinas received about 39% of the vote, Summers 37%, and Rachel Visinoni about 9%. Lacey Butts, who dropped

out of the race, still snagged nearly 14% of the vote.

Salinas said the extremely close results were nerve-wracking.

"I have no fingernails left because I've chewed them all off," she said.

With about 32% of the vote, Keri Lopez led the race for the Position 4 seat in early results. Bob Perry, who dropped out of the

race, received about 24% of the early vote. Carmen Lawson and Oscar Gonzalez were close behind, receiving about 23% and 21% of early votes, respectively. There was only a 442-vote gap between Lopez and Gonzalez in early returns.

"I'm feeling like it's too close to be comfortable," Lopez said.

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Jefferson

Continued from A1

In the Position 3 race, Jacob Struck, a construction superintendent, has a lead over Jaylyn Suppah, a community planner in Warm Springs, with 53.8% of the vote compared to Suppah's 46%. Both were running for a seat that opened when board member Tom Norton Jr. did not

seek reelection.

Struck, 34, who works for Skanska USA Building, ran for the school board to support the existing vocational programs and possibly add more. The father of three children in kindergarten, second and fourth grades also wants to get more families involved in their children's education.

Suppah, 34, was motivated to serve

on the school board and add more representation for Warm Springs students and families. Suppah planned to use her experience in educational advocacy work as a part of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs' education committee.

Board Chair Laurie Danzuka ran unopposed Tuesday for her seat.

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OBITUARY

Ruby Eloise "Anderson" Uptegrove
April 26, 1937 - May 8, 2021

On May 8th, 2021, Ruby had a heavenly reunion with her husband Mel, and her son Steven. She passed peacefully at home lovely surrounded by "her girls". She had just celebrated her 84th birthday. She was born in Oak Creek, CO. and moved to Bend when she was 2 years old. She married Melvin August 23, 1956.

Ruby was a great asset to Bend Family Dentistry where she spent over 35 years keeping things going and is now a legend. Prior to that she worked in the Physical Therapy department at St. Charles.

She had a love for reading and shared that love with her great-granddaughters by reading to them and having them read to her. She was loving, caring, and generous with a pinch of feisty, and had a great sense of humor which was an asset as she helped raise her granddaughters. She established lasting relationships with her co-workers, enjoyed gardening, and in her younger years, cross country skiing.

The family wishes to thank Partners in Care Hospice nurses for her wonderful in-home care.

Ruby is survived by her son, Mike Uptegrove (wife Marcie), daughter Linda Spittler (husband Bob); grandchildren, Kailee Corpus, Erin Fielder (husband Ross), Adam Uptegrove, Heather Wong (husband Aaron), Rob Spittler (wife Amara); great granddaughters Mia Fielder, Elloise Fielder, and Abigail Spittler.

There will be a celebration of life scheduled this summer, TBD. Her wishes were to be cremated.

Donations may be made to Partners in Care Hospice house in her name. 2075 NE Wyatt Ct. Bend, OR 97701

Please sign the guestbook for the family online at www.niswonger-reynolds.com.