

Primary tallies form November election picture

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The Kitsap County Auditor expects a 22 percent turnout once all ballots from the Aug. 5 primary are returned. (Photo: Kelly Wilkinson/IndyStar)

November's election came more closely into focus following Tuesday's primary, as ballots began to be counted in races where more than two candidates filed to run for the Nov. 5 general election.

There were 93,306 voters eligible to cast ballots in Tuesday's election, according to Paul Andrews, Kitsap County Auditor. He is expecting a turnout of about 22 percent once all the ballots from the all-mail election are returned.

"It was low," Andrews said about turnout, adding that it's often harder for election officials to generate widespread voter interest in odd-year elections where the ballots are full of city council, school board and port district races. "It's unfortunate because those are the positions that have the biggest impact on the taxpayer."

Tuesday's election put the new statewide voter management system, "VoteWA" to the test, Andrews said. The system manages voter registration for all of Washington's counties, enabling things like same-day registration. Previously, each county operated its own system.

"Vote WA was the big question for a lot of auditors around the state: 'how was it going to handle an election?'" he said.

Andrews said the system performed well. "We couldn't have asked for anything better."

Andrews said he expected most of the ballots to be received by Friday. The primary will be certified on Aug. 20. The following vote totals were posted by the auditor's office on Wednesday afternoon.

Bremerton City Council District 6

In the crowded City Council race in Bremerton's District 6, Michael Simpson, an Army veteran and former Kitsap County Sheriff's deputy, was the leader of the pack with 38.2% of the vote, or 312 votes. Anna Mockler, a former wetland scientist and writing professor, had the second-highest tally, with 27.9% of the vote, or 228 votes. Chase LaFors garnered 21.8% of the vote (178 votes). Erinn Howell and Jared Hofer trailed, with single-digit percentages.

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The candidates are vying to replace outgoing City Councilman Richard Huddy, who did not file for re-election.

City of Bainbridge Island Council District 2 North Ward

Incumbent Kol Medina, who currently serves as the city's appointed mayor, was leading among the three candidates who filed for the North Ward seat. He garnered 51.5% of the votes counted by Tuesday (956) over Kevin Fetterly, an electrical engineer who owns Apria Technology, a small business based on Bainbridge Island. Fetterly had 40.5%, or 762 votes.

A third candidate, Ashley Matthews, reportedly dropped out of the race in the weeks leading up to the election. She received 6.7% of votes counted by Tuesday night.

Port of Bremerton District 2

In the race to replace Larry Stokes, outgoing District 2 commissioner for the Port of Bremerton, Gary K. Anderson was handily leading Jack Edwards.

Anderson, who owns a commercial realty firm, received 2,321 votes, or 54.3% of those tallied by Tuesday night. Edwards, former economic development director for the city of Bremerton, received 1,654 votes, or 38.7%

A third candidate on the ballot, Michael Nicosia, dropped out of the race on June 13, alerting the Kitsap County Auditor's Office he would not be able to fill the position. Nicosia received 252 votes, or 5.9%.

North Kitsap School District Director District 5

Incumbent Cindy Webster-Martinson, a Suquamish tribal elder, cruised ahead of her two challengers in the race for North Kitsap School District's District 5 school director position, with 52% (4,258) of votes counted.

Kim Gerlach, a retired electrician and self-described fiscal conservative, also made the cut with 26.8%, or 2,197 votes.

Kelie Griffin trailed with 20.5%, or 1,676 votes. Griffin in a pre-primary forum described herself as a cheerleader with vision for the district.

South Kitsap School District School Board

Two of three seats on the South Kitsap School Board up for election in 2019 were on the primary ballot.

District 2

John R. Berg was leading in the race for the District 2 seat to be vacated by Keith Garton, who is not seeking re-election. Berg had 42.8% of the vote (3,846). He is a retired real estate assessor and president of the Washington State Association of Parliamentarians (consultants in properly running meetings and organizations.)

Glenny Compton, with 31.7% of votes (2,847) counted, also appears to move on to the general election. Compton works in the medical assisting program at Olympic College and has seven children, including two currently at the high school.

Likely eliminated from the race is Robert Lamb, who had 24.6% of votes (2,213). Lamb is retired from a career in the Navy and Department of Defense and has served on the district finance committee

District 5

In District 5, Jeff Daily bested incumbent Greg Wall in the primary with 36.7% (3,336) of the vote to Wall's 34.1% (3,089).

Daily is a retired U.S. Air Force officer who taught special education in South Kitsap from 2003 through 2015. Daily is endorsed by Citizens Supporting South Kitsap Schools, a group that has been critical of the school board.

Wall, a Port Orchard attorney in his second term on the board, has served South Kitsap since 2012.

Jill A. Boltz, a clerk for Kitsap Transit and longtime South Kitsap resident, trailed with 28.8% (2,622) of votes counted in preliminary results.

Reporter Chris Henry contributed to this report.

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