

Kitsap Sun

NEWS

School board incumbents in North, South Kitsap facing elimination after primary

Tuesday's results show directors John Berg of South Kitsap and Barbara Waggoner of North Kitsap are outside the top-two in their respective races.



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Two incumbent school board directors -- one in North Kitsap and another in South -- are facing elimination based on primary election results released Tuesday evening by the Kitsap County Auditor.

There will be change coming to North Kitsap's board as District 5 incumbent Barbara Waggoner (23.3%) is in distant third behind health services employee Stacy Mills (41.5%) and retired Navy veteran Melanie Miller (35.3%). Only the top-two candidates based on vote totals advance to the Nov. 7 general election.

"The community voted for change and I hope to be a part of that change for our district," said Mills, who added that she looks forward to increased voter turnout in the fall. As of Tuesday night, less than 20% of registered voters had turned in ballots.

In North Kitsap's District 2 race, incumbent Mike Desmond received 44.7% of the vote and will advance to the general election along with Natasha Fecteau Minger, an Alaska Native and parent of a student in the district. Fecteau Minger received 36.5%, ahead of Drew McDonald (18.8%).

In North Kitsap's District 4 race, former NKSD teacher Beverly Godfrey (35.5%) and small business owner Terri Schumacher (21.6%) are in the top-two, ahead of Bill Longworth (14.9%), Adam Salazar (14.7%) and Teresa Case (13.3%).

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In South Kitsap, the five-candidate District 2 race showed incumbent John Berg in third position with 20.7% of the vote. If the results hold, Berg won't advance to the general election. Megan Higgins, a mother of three South Kitsap students who has tutored in the district, leads the race 35.5% of the vote, while Jaime Cross, who owns a masonry business and has three children enrolled in South Kitsap, received 22.3%. The other two candidates are Glenn Goddard (16.8%) and Paul Nuchims (4.7%).

Higgins, who has tutored students in SKSD, said the reason she began attending school board meetings — and eventually became a candidate — is because she sees the need for facility upgrades district-wide.

"I feel really strongly that we need to see that supported," said Higgins, who supports South Kitsap's 21-year, \$271 million bond measure that will be on the November ballot.

South Kitsap's District 5 race shows Jay Villars and Rhonda Edwards advancing to the general election. A former administrator in the district who now works as a facilitator for high school accreditations, Villars leads with 48.2% of the vote, while Edwards, a longtime business owner and third generation Port Orchard resident, received 36.3%, ahead of Larry Mann (15.5%).

In Central Kitsap, board president Drayton Jackson leads the District 2 race with 41.3% of the vote, but he's being pushed by Jim Grose, who plans to retire from Puget Sound Naval Shipyard in October. Grose received 37.8% to earn a spot in the general election, finishing ahead of Rob Sanders (12.3%) and George Campbell (8.6%).

"It's a very, very close race," Jackson said.

Central Kitsap's District 4 incumbent Meghan Hein is in dominant position with 70.1% of the vote. It appears she'll be joined in the general election by Jason Gilham, a Navy veteran who received 14.8% and is ahead of Eric Rolenaitis (11.2%) and Josh Wexler (3.9%)

The auditor's office will continue to update vote totals in the coming days. Election certification is Aug. 15. The general election for the candidates that advance, along with other races with only two candidates, will be held Nov. 7.