



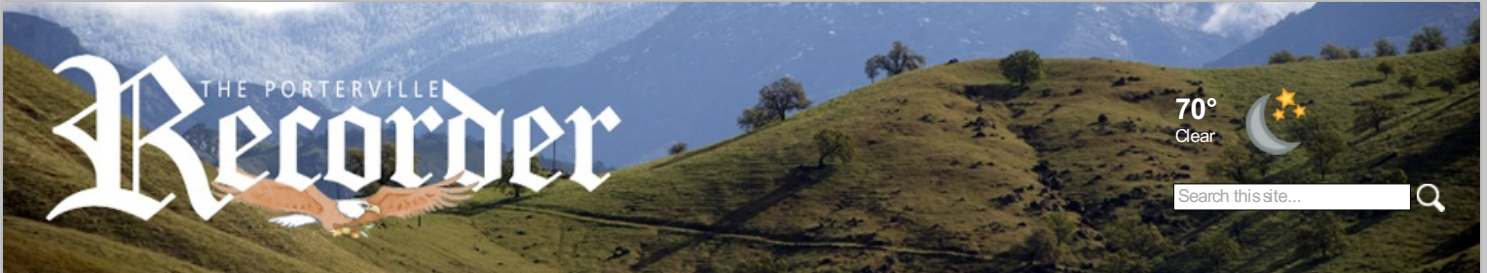
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Lindsay City Council upended in election

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Lindsay City Council upended in election

Ed Murray



Posted: Thursday, November 8, 2012 12:00 am | Updated: 6:01 am, Thu Nov 14, 2013.

By EMILY SHAPIRO

Mayor Ed Murray and Mayor Pro Tem Esteban Velasquez were unseated Tuesday by challengers Rosaena Sanchez and Steven Mecum.

Sanchez and Mecum were comfortably ahead on the final election night summary report from the Tulare County Elections Office.

"They've [the voters] had enough of who we have now," said Mecum, who was not willing to claim victory, but was waiting for the final results.

"I'm confident. I believe there's a lot more ballots to count," said Mecum.

Sanchez had 452 votes, Mecum had 386 votes and incumbent Pam Kimball had 378 votes to claim the three open seats.

Velasquez had 336 votes while Murray had 288 votes. Timothy Daubert with 285 votes and Eric Eugene Perfecto Sinclair rounded out the voting with 150 votes. There were still 50,000 ballots to be processed from the county.

Velasquez, who trails Kimball for the third seat by 42 votes, was still hopeful.

"We're going to have to wait and see. I feel good. If they want me to be in the numbers will show it," said Velasquez. If re-elected, he will continue to work the Economic Development Corporation to bring businesses to the city. If officially unseated, he will continue to be active in Lindsay.

"I will still be seen and involved around town. I want to stay committed to seeing Lindsay progress," explained Velasquez who is active on the Orange Blossom Committee and participates in the Chili and Rib cook-offs among other activities.

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Murray was surprised by the outcome.

"I had really thought I'd be re-elected. I'm shocked, but it's the way it is" said Murray. "I'm very proud of the city council."

In regards to the challengers, Murray didn't mince words.

"The other two that got ahead put out slanderous lies," charges Murray, who added that signs and other materials for the Sanchez campaign were paid for by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). His advice for the new council members is to the point.

"Once they are seated, [I hope they] take the time to learn how city government actually works, so you really know what's going on. Sometimes the government doesn't work the way you want things to work," stated Murray.

He said he will now devote more time to working at the Orange Belt Supply Company.

Kimball slipped from second to third place in late counting.

"I feel good and pleased with the support I've received," said Kimball, who added that there will be some obstacles in the new term.

"It will be a challenging term with two new individuals. Establishing a climate of respect and civility is something we'll have to work on right away," stated Kimball, who added that there have been attacks on council members. She looks forward to continuing to work on the council.

"I will do my best to continue to serve with integrity and the experience I've gained," added Kimball.

Sanchez, a self-sufficiency counselor, was unavailable for comment.

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