

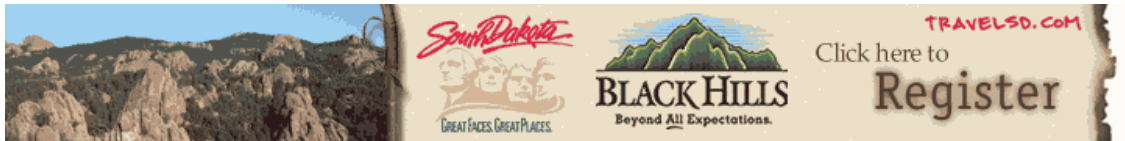
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ELECTION 2006: THE PRIMARIES

6-term DuPage board member suffers defeat

Attorney wins GOP nod for District 2 seat

By **Joseph Sjostrom**
Tribune staff reporter
Published March 23, 2006

"I've run in 30 elections, and won 29 of them," said Irene Stone, a six-term DuPage County Board member from Lombard.

Her long record of political victories was shattered Tuesday when Stone, 77, was defeated by attorney Jeff Redick in the Republican primary election for Stone's District 2 board seat.

Stone was seeking the nomination to run in the November general election for a seventh term and was endorsed by board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom.

Redick had powerful endorsements as well--the Republican chairmen of the townships that form parts of District 2, seven mayors and also by state Sen. Dan Cronin (R-Elmhurst), one of Redick's law partners.

"I wasn't running against Jeff Redick, I was running against Dan Cronin," Stone said Wednesday. "But it was a win-win situation for me. Either I got the most votes, or I got to retire."

Stone was involved in Lombard politics in the 1970 and 1980s, though never as a candidate for village office. She did, however, serve 32 years as elected Republican precinct committeeman.

She said the County Board accomplishments of which she is most proud include helping to buy open land for the county forest preserve, close landfills on forest preserve property and form the DuPage Water Commission, which brings Lake Michigan water to the county.

Redick, for his part, attributes his win to a hard-fought campaign and his promises of bringing county government closer the people of the district.

"The campaign was just a lot of hard work with a good message, a lot of talking to the people about better representation and more involvement with the process of governing," Redick said.

He said he plans to hold town-meeting style gatherings with residents of the district to seek his constituents' views on regional issues such as transportation and public safety.

In the general election, Redick will face Elizabeth Chaplin, who ran unopposed in the Democratic primary.

In another upset in Tuesday's election, County Board member Grant Eckhoff (R-Wheaton) was defeated by J.R. "Jerry" McBride, an insurance broker from Glen Ellyn.

"Voter turnout was low, and [McBride] ran a well-organized campaign," Eckhoff said Wednesday. "I'm proud of the campaign we ran."

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During his campaign McBride questioned the County Board's decision last fall to increase the county's portion of the real estate tax about \$7 per year on the average single-family home. He said Wednesday he couldn't specify where spending could have been reduced to prevent the increase but said the County Board should keep looking for them.

"I'm going to get involved and to keep looking for [ways to cut spending], but I can't believe that in a \$500 million annual budget there aren't some opportunities to cut for reductions," Redick said Wednesday.

There was no candidate for Eckhoff's board seat on the Democratic primary ballot.

In other contests, the Republican primary for county treasurer was won in a close race by Gwen Henry, an accountant, former mayor of Wheaton and former County Board member. She defeated Robert Heap, a Naperville lawyer and County Board member who is chairman of the board's Finance Committee. There was no candidate for treasurer on the Democratic ballot.

Heap did not run for re-election to the board in order to run for treasurer, and the Republican nomination for his board position was won by Michael G. Connelly, a Lisle Village Board member.

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