



# GOP poised to sweep

## Republicans lead in all county board races

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Democrats hoping to break the Republican grip on the DuPage County Board instead were facing the possibility of a clean sweep by the GOP.

Republican candidates were cruising along with comfortable leads in all six of the contested county board races.

And the GOP wasn't even challenged for several other county board seats.

County board member Grant Eckhoff, apparently defeating Democrat Richard Dunn, said the outcome sends a message DuPage remains "a bastion of Republicanism."

Indeed, only one Democrat, Linda Bourke-Hilbert, has been elected to the county board in 24 years.

But Eckhoff stressed the Republican-controlled county board has responded by doing a good job.

"We've got issues in front of us," he said. "But we are going to work together to solve them. We are a team."

### Campuzano survives challenge in Dist. 1

Four years after defeating the last Democrat to serve on the county board, Republican Yolanda Campuzano secured another two years in office.

With 96 of 118 precincts reporting, the 39-year-old Wood Dale resident had 56 percent of the vote over Democrat Rita Gonzalez, according to unofficial tallies.

During the campaign, Gonzalez focused on the county's projected budget deficit.

The 42-year-old Addison resident criticized the county board as "fiscally irresponsible."

She joined other Democrats in insisting the county could save money by reducing the number of board members from 18 to 12 — and slashing their yearly salaries.

Also in District 1, unofficial results show incumbent Donald Puchalski, with 55 percent of the votes, getting the nod over Democrat Robert Peickert.

Puchalski was picked by DuPage County Board Chairman Robert Schillerstrom to fill a

vacancy last fall. Now the 52-year-old attorney from Addison will serve four years on the board.

Peickert, a 61-year-old Elmhurst resident, focused his campaign efforts on the \$48,620-a-year salary board members receive. He then blasted them for approving an increase that takes the pay to \$53,645 by 2010.

But Puchalski and Campuzano were among the eight board members who opposed the pay hikes because DuPage is facing serious deficits and proposed budget cuts.

Both Republicans say they believe county spending can be trimmed without affecting essential services.

District 1 serves all or part of Addison, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Elmhurst, Itasca, Lombard, Roselle, Villa Park and Wood Dale.

### **Newcomer Redick bests Chaplin**

Republican newcomer Jeff Redick was within reach of winning a 4-year seat on the board.

The 37-year-old attorney from Elmhurst bested Democratic challenger Elizabeth "Liz" Chaplin in District 2.

With 131 of 153 precincts reporting, unofficial results showed Redick leading with 53 percent of the votes.

Redick, who defeated longtime county board member Irene Stone in the GOP primary, found himself in a unexpected position when Stone surprisingly endorsed Chaplin.

Chaplin, a 41-year-old Downers Grove resident, serves on the DuPage Water Commission.

She proposed a controversial plan to have an estimated \$30 million a year in sales tax revenue collected by the water commission transferred to the county.

Nearly five years ago, the county got state lawmakers to approve a plan enabling it to take \$15 million a year from the commission. DuPage is slated to get its fifth and final check from the commission in July.

While county leaders have yet to decide how to replace that money, Redick strongly opposes any plan that has the county taking revenue from another taxing district.

Instead, he insists the county must do long-term budget planning and "a critical evaluation of county operations."

District 2 includes all or part of Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, Hinsdale, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Oakbrook Terrace, Villa Park, Westmont and Woodridge.

### **Incumbent Gilgis wins in District 3**

Republican incumbent Kyle Aubrey Gilgis defeated Democrat Lynne Presley.

With 89 of 124 precincts reporting, Gilgis had 54 percent of the votes. Presley, a Clarendon Hills resident, had 45 percent.

District 3 covers all or parts of Bolingbrook, Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills, Darien, Downers Grove, Hinsdale, Naperville, Westmont, Willowbrook and Woodridge.

#### **Eckhoff comeback complete in Dist. 4**

The resurrection of Grant Eckhoff's political career is complete.

After losing in the GOP primary to Jerry "JR" McBride, Eckhoff was placed on Tuesday's ballot to fill a vacancy created by the death of former county board member John Noel.

District 4 voters rewarded Eckhoff by giving him another two years on the board.

"It feels great," Eckhoff said as he followed the results from his Wheaton home. "I am very happy and appreciative of all the people who voted for me."

Eckhoff defeated Democratic challenger Richard Dunn, a former planner from Glen Ellyn.

With 105 of 129 precincts counted, unofficial totals showed Eckhoff with 55 percent of the votes.

Both candidates differed on what the county should do to increase revenue.

Eckhoff, a 47-year-old Wheaton attorney, said he would support a \$1-per-pack cigarette tax as a way to increase revenue.

If Illinois law is changed and DuPage County is allowed to tax cigarettes, it would generate between \$27 million and \$40 million a year, according to a county study.

Dunn, a 68-year-old Glen Ellyn resident, said he would rather see state law changed to transfer water commission money to the county coffers.

Meanwhile, the Republican who shocked Eckhoff in the primary was winning a 4-year seat on the county board.

With 105 of 129 precincts reporting, McBride was leading with 59 percent of the vote.

Democrat Dan Bailey, a locomotive engineer from Wheaton, trailed with 41 percent of the votes.

"I am extremely honored," McBride said. "I am really going to try to follow through on everything I said and try to be the best county board member I can possibly be."

McBride, who was appointed after the primary to fill a board vacancy, is planning to focus on financial issues, including a call for the county to do better planning for the future.

Long before the Democrats started doing it, the 39-year-old insurance broker from Glen Ellyn criticized the county board's decision to raise the property tax levy this year for the first time in a decade.

"I want to make sure that we run as smoothly as possible and as efficiently as possible," he said.

District 4 serves all or portions of Addison, Bloomingdale, Carol Stream, Glen Ellyn, Glendale

Heights, Lisle, Lombard, Wheaton and Winfield.

**Free pass for some Republicans**

Also, Republican county board members Brien Sheahan, Tom Bennington, James Healy, Jim Zay and Linda Kurzawa were re-elected without opposition.

No Democrat opposed Republican newcomer Michael Connelly of Lisle from becoming the county board representative from District 5, which includes all or parts of Aurora, Lisle, Naperville, Warrenville and Woodridge.

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