

Grant considers a recount of votes



Hills council candidate Jonathan Grant (right) and campaign manager Richard Stemplo keep watch on vote counts.

About 15 percent of the city's registered voters cast ballots. Two years ago, the turnout was 18 percent.

DESPITE HIS six-vote loss to Sever for a two-year term, Grant said, "I think I really, really did well. This is the fourth time his (Sever's) name was on the ballot. He had a lot of name recognition. I didn't."

Grant said he will consider seeking reappointment to the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees. As required by city charter, Grant was forced to resign his position as board vice president because he was seeking city council election. The 20-year resident owns Reliance Forms & Supplies, Farmington Hills.

For the first time in her 10-year political career, Dolan — current council mayor — took first place with 76 percent of the total 6,312

ballots cast. She outdistanced second-place finisher Jodi Soronen — a seven-year council veteran — by 207 votes.

Dolan received 4,803 votes and Soronen 4,596 (approximately 76 percent of the total vote). Marks placed third with a total 4,350 votes, or approximately 69 percent of total votes cast. The three incumbents will each serve four-year terms.

"I was hopeful but not confident," said Dolan, 56, about her re-election. "You never know what is going to turn people on or off." The 20-year resident operates Orchard Hills Adult Day Center in West Bloomfield.

Soronen, 50, was happy with her standing in the election returns and had expected to be re-elected because of the small number of candidates and her incumbency. "I was very pleased. Hopefully, it means that those who voted were pleased with what I have done. I was obviously very hopeful that I would place in the top three."

She is executive director Farmington-Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. The 23-year Farmington Hills resident was first elected to council in 1978.

AFTER SURVIVING a recount election last year, Marks was happy with his "nice solid win" Tuesday. "I think a lot of it had to do with my 9-10 months on council. The election showed I had a very broad-based support," he said.

Although Marks, 62, said he wasn't concerned with taking first place, he did aim to capture a four-year term. "I wanted to win in a conclusive manner — with a substantial vote. I am honored and I am flattered that the voters of Farmington Hills chose to put me up there for four years," said Marks, a local developer and an 18-year resident.

Despite her success, Dolan said she was disappointed in the low vo-

ter turnout Tuesday. "There was no big issue. But I still don't know what to do to get people to vote."

Of the city's 42,192 registered voters, only 6,312 ballots were processed — about 15 percent — Reynolds said. The city clerk had predicted at least 18 percent would vote in Tuesday's election.

Marks ECHOED Dolan's concern about low voter turnout. "It is something that is not restricted to Farmington Hills. It is all across the country. It's sad. It's really sad."

"We (city council) are sitting up there making decisions for 60,000 people. I would (as a taxpayer and voter) sure like to know what they are doing with my money."

Of the 6,312 ballots cast, more than half — 3,188 — were absentee. Dolan received 2,530 absentee votes; Soronen, 2,414; Marks, 2,241; Sever, 2,097; and Grant, 1,899.

Marks: pacesetter in campaign expenses

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

Incumbent Ben Marks received the most in financial contributions of the five candidates who vied for four seats on the Farmington Hills City Council.

Marks received \$2,625 in contributions and paid \$1,312 in campaign ex-

penses, as of mid-October.

Challenger Jonathan Grant and incumbent Jan Dolan were the only other two candidates who filed campaign finance statements, according to pre-election finance reports filed with the Oakland County elections clerk by Oct. 25.

Candidates are required by state law to file pre- and post-election financial reports with the elections clerk if they collect or spend more than \$500. Failure to file reports results in a \$10 a day fine up to a maximum \$300. Candidates must file a post-election report by Dec. 5, showing a complete list of campaign expenses.

Farmington Hills incumbent Jodi Soronen didn't file a campaign statement because she neither collected nor spent more than \$500, according to her notification to the county clerk. Councilman-to-be Terry Sever did not respond to filing notifications, a county clerk spokeswoman said.

FARMINGTON CITY Council candi-

dates — incumbent Alton Bennett and challengers Richard Tupper, Elizabeth Mihelich, Arnold Campbell and Gerald Lynch — did not file campaign statements because none collected or spent more than \$500 according to their notifications to the county clerk.

Of the 12 private and corporate contributors to Marks' re-election campaign, three developers — Brooks & Layne Development Co. of Farmington Hills, Stuart Frankel of Troy and Melvin Kaplan of Southfield — contributed \$500 each. Other contributions ranged from \$25 to \$200.

To date, Marks' \$1,312 in expenses have been spent on printing for campaign letters and flyers, a campaign photograph and a campaign party.

Grant followed Marks in the amount of political contributions with a total \$1,170 from 20 private citizens. Unlike Marks, none of the individual contributors to Grant's campaign exceeded \$100.

As of the pre-election filing date, Grant had spent \$349 of the total contributions on campaign expenses — printing and a campaign party.

Dolan entered this year's race with a balance (from a previous election report) of \$1,035. In addition, she collected \$345 from four private citizens in

October.

Her expenses totaled \$394 as of mid-October for printing of campaign literature, voting labels, stuffing envelopes, a campaign photograph and brochure art work.

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Voters approve 4 amendments to charter

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

For the first time in the city's 12-year history, the Farmington Hills City Charter has been changed.

Voters — 6,312 of them — supported amending four of five proposed charter amendments.

Only Proposition D — allowing board and commission members to continue their positions when seeking election to the city council — failed by 510 votes. A total 3,203 no votes and 2,793 yes votes were cast for Proposition D.

Candidate Jonathan Grant, who lost to challenger Terry Sever by six votes for a city council seat Tuesday, was

forced, under this charter provision, to resign his position as vice president of the Farmington Community Library Board of Trustees to run for city council.

Proposition A — allowing newly elected council members to take office immediately after the election's certification rather than waiting until the first of the year — was supported overwhelmingly, 4,735 yes, 1,291 no.

With Proposition A's passage, council members Jan Dolan, Jodi Soronen, Ben Marks and newcomer Terry Sever will be sworn in before next Monday's council meeting.

PROPOSITION B was also supported — 3,418 yes, 2,468 no. The amend-

ment requires candidates filling a council vacancy to serve until the next regular odd-year city election. This will eliminate the risk that city candidates would be forced to seek election during a presidential election year when the ballot is generally lengthy.

Voters overwhelmingly supported Proposition C. The vote was 3,973 yes, 1,992 no. With C's passage, the city will no longer be required to hold a primary for the number of candidates running is twice as many as the number of open seats. A primary generally costs the city \$10,000-\$15,000.

Of the four amendments that were approved, Proposition B garnered the greatest voter support with 5,272 yes votes and only 593 no votes. The

amendment brings the city charter into compliance with state law and accomplishes two changes in the Board of Review process.

The amendment will now require the Board of Review to convene on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. That change will give the board more time to review property owners' cases and complete necessary work. Review of the city's assessment roll must be completed by the first Monday in April.

The amendment also requires the city to notify property owners of any assessment increase. Formerly, the city was required to notify property owners only if assessments increased by 5 or more percent.

Farmington Hills City Council Election

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 1985 — Local Precinct Breakdown

Precincts	Dolan	Soronen	Marks	Sever	Grant
1. Power School	86	81	72	86	79
2. Wheeler Fire Hall	81	73	71	58	56
3. Woodcreek School	101	80	125	71	84
4. Power School	28	30	31	32	29
5. Grace School	141	137	104	131	121
6. Larkshire School	64	70	54	58	56
7. Dunckel School	70	66	67	69	58
8. East School	166	152	179	143	150
9. East School	46	47	42	42	50
10. Dunckel School	131	128	123	97	110
11. North Farmington	160	158	141	123	139
12. East School	167	167	134	125	146
13. Grace School	57	53	46	42	50
14. Alameda School	63	66	52	58	49
15. Gill School	42	44	45	28	43
16. Fairview School	70	62	77	60	49
17. Alameda School	82	82	66	73	74
18. Lutheran High	76	80	73	70	64
19. Forest School	120	124	144	108	116
20. Fire Department HQ	58	68	72	43	54
21. Dunckel School	81	72	56	47	70
22. North Farmington	134	125	129	116	114
23. Kenbrook School	79	71	77	55	62
24. Independence Green	26	28	20	34	22
25. Gill School	81	78	73	62	70
26. Hope Lutheran	28	24	23	22	29
27. Universalist Unitarian	15	16	13	14	19
Absentee	2,470	2,414	2,241	2,097	1,899
Totals	4,803	4,596	4,350	3,964	3,958

Registered voters, 42,192; actual voters, 6,312; turnout percentage, 14 percent.

Vote counts are unofficial.

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