

Many returns: Terry Sever joins onlookers peering into a computer monitor as results are tabulated at Farmington Hills City Hall. Sever finished third in the GOP runoff for state representative.



Rocky from page A1

"The electorate is upset with politics as usual," he said. "I knocked on a lot of peoples' doors who said they would not be voting because they couldn't find a candidate who had the backbone and who would stand up for their issues — until they found us."

Webb wouldn't accept defeat. Farmington school trustee told somber supporters at the Botsford Inn she was mounting a write-in campaign.

"I'm not a quitter; You're not quitters," Webb said as the final results trickled in. "If you stick this out for another couple of months, we're going to go for a write-in campaign. We have too much honesty, too much integrity to give in now."

One consideration in Webb's decision to mount a write-in campaign for the Nov. 5 election was an initial report of 2,000 ballots being spoiled.

"To me, that's very significant," Webb said. "I think a lot of those were my votes."

The figure is closer to 500 — if that, a Hills clerk said Wednesday.

Some 8 percent of 6,283 absentee ballots cast may have been voided by cross-party voting in Farmington Hills, a clerk said. An exact figure wasn't available.

A number also wasn't available in Farmington — where Webb was the top vote-getter with 694 — but a clerk said there were very few.

At the polls, voters got another opportunity to recast their ballot because the computerized scanning machine immediately rejects tainted ones, a Hills clerk said. "But some of them don't want to," Farmington Deputy Clerk James Schmidt added.

Absentee ballots, though, could not be re-scanned. Another factor in her defeat was Sever's presence in the race, Webb said. She likened the Hills councilman's candidacy to "the Ross Perot of this campaign," referring to how the Texas Independent took votes from George

Bush and allowed Democrat Bill Clinton to win the Presidency in 1992.

Sever disputed that.

"The majority of my votes would've gone to Andy Raczowski," Sever said.

"My estimates were that somewhere around 5,000 pro-life voters would vote, and that's pretty close to where it came out. There was also a lot push for Ronna Romney in this area."

"In my mind, I helped Cathy in taking votes away from Andy."

Sever was disappointed in his third-place finish. He counted on support generated through years of service on the Hills council.

"I'm ready to take some time off from politics," Sever said. "I'll do what I've done in the past in these situations: I'll go fishing."

Jolicœur was also pondering what to do after her run for state office.

"My plan right now is to go back and to continue to grow my business," she said.

Raczowski, 27, nearly upset Dolan in a Republican primary two years ago. Then and now he touted himself as the "only true conservative."

The pro-life vote did help, Raczowski said but added his support came from other conservative circles.

"That's (pro-life) a very strong issue with me," Raczowski said, "but it's not my only issue."

While Webb had the backing of Farmington officialdom — many of whom were with her at the Botsford Inn — Raczowski said he had his own officials backing him, such as retired state Sen. Dave Heinigman and tax reformer Dick Hendice.

Raczowski was surprised by Webb's plan to go for a write-in campaign.

"It's disappointing," he said. "I would've hoped she would've joined us. I understand. Two years ago when I conceded to Jan (Dolan) it was 10:30 and I was hurt..."



STAFF PHOTOS BY SEARON LEDBETTER

Principal support: Power Middle School Principal Laura Miner consoles unsuccessful Republican state House candidate and Farmington school trustee Cathy Webb Tuesday night at the Botsford Inn. Many school and community leaders backed Webb in her bid to replace outgoing state Rep. Jan Dolan.

Council from page A1

for seven months. Councilwoman Vicki Barnett, a Kurzeja supporter said she would miss the defeated councilwoman.

"I am really going to miss her a lot," she said. "The city is losing a zoning expert."

Kurzeja served as a member of the zoning board of appeals.

Kurzeja was only able to win

three precincts out of 27, losing one by a 6-1 margin.

She won the 11th Precinct, which voted at Wood Creek School, 151-105; the 20th at William Grace School, 166-142; and the 27th at St. Alexander's Church, 152-53.

Ellis was very strong in northern Farmington Hills. He won in

Precinct 1 at Fairview School by a 373-96 (80 percent), Precinct 2 at North Farmington High School, 425-148 (74 percent) and Forest Elementary School, 435-128 (77 percent).

Ellis will begin his term at Monday's city council meeting, the same night now City Manager Daniel Hobbs attends his first regular council session.

Dibert's the man for Dems

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

Democratic State House candidate Steve Dibert has climbed a mountain, only to find a bigger one behind it.

Dibert defeated Attorney Carl Christoph in only the third Democratic primary for the state house in Farmington Hills history. The district also includes Farmington.

"I think Carl and I ran a model campaign," Dibert said. "It was what a political contest should be. We talked about issues. It wasn't like the wacky insanity known as the Republican primary."

Dibert won 1,540-1,240, with 10 write-ins, a 55-44 percent margin.

Christoph credited Dibert with a "good, clean campaign."

"Steve started early and worked hard," Christoph said. "And he had Vicki (Barnett) and Aldo (Vagnozzi), whom I admire, to go for him."

Christoph said he was grateful to his family, especially his wife Rose, for their support and hard work.

"Steve's a gentleman," he said. "I'm only disappointed for my supporters who volunteered so much time."

The primary was only the third time in 20 years that two



Stephen Dibert

Dibert did well with absentee voters in Farmington Hills, with a 937-632 margin and kept the lead.

He won in Farmington Hills by a 1,428-1,136 margin (55.6-44.3 percent). The vote was much closer in Farmington, 114-105 (51.6-47.7 percent).

Even with a Democratic primary, many voters likely to vote that way crossed over to the Republican primary.

Dibert said he hopes to not only get the Democrats to vote in Farmington, but convince moderate Republicans to become Democrats for a day in November.

"I'm the only viable moderate candidate left," he said, referring to Republican 37th District House race winner Andrew Raczowski.

Dibert, a newlywed, plans on a short honeymoon and then a return to the campaign trail.

"We'll have a lot of work to do," he said. "But I'm expecting support from the county, state and city."

In 1976, Harvey Leon Katz defeated Dante DiVitto, but went down to defeat at the hands of Sandy Brotherton in November.

In the Aug. 2, 1988 contest, John E. Dolan defeated Ken Murray, but lost to current Rep. Jan Dolan in the general election.

Wolf taking no chances in win

Donn Wolf was taking no chances. The 19th District County Commissioner from Farmington Hills easily defeated Joanne Molin in his fifth run for commission Tuesday. But he was taking no chances.

"I never have taken an election for granted and I never will," said the former Farmington Hills mayor.

Wolf won in Farmington by a 796-376 margin (67.8-31.9 percent), and in Farmington Hills by a 1,490-723 (67.2-32.6 percent) for a total of 2,286-1,099 margin (67-33 percent). There were 14 write-ins.

Molin could not be reached for comment.

Wolf said he probably bit off more than he could chew by taking and active part in three campaigns: U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, U.S. Senate hopeful Ronne Romney and his own campaign.

COUNTY COMMISSION

Romney defeated Jim Nicholson for the GOP nomination both locally and statewide.

"We knew she had to either break even or win in Oakland County to win," Wolf said. "She won in Oakland County by 86 votes."

Romney won in Farmington by an 815-692 (54-46 percent) margin and in Farmington Hills by a 4,549-4,359 (51-49 percent) margin.

Farmington and Farmington Hills voters also favored Royal Oak Councilman Dave Gorycia over incumbent County Prosecutor Dick Thompson. Gorycia beat Thompson, in Farmington Gorycia won 722-719, but in Farmington Hills, Gorycia won 4,546-3,924 (54-46 percent).

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