

Five new faces on county board

By Lydia Statz, Union staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, April 2, 2014 12:18 am

JEFFERSON — Five of the 30 seats on the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors will have new members in the wake of Tuesday's general election.

In perhaps one of the night's biggest surprises, John Molinaro, the board's current chairman, was upset in his bid for re-election in District 16 by challenger Laura Payne.

Payne, an environmental engineer, came away from the night with 248 ballots districtwide, while Molinaro garnered a total of 200.

The district spans Wards 1,2 and 3 in the Town of Oakland and Ward 1 in the Village of Cambridge.

Molinaro, who has served on the board for 10 years, said he was proud of what he has accomplished during his tenure, but the defeat signaled the beginning of his retirement.

"There are some challenges ahead that I was hoping to be able to help with, but there will be other people that will do it," he said. "The county did fine before I was on the county board, and I'm sure they'll do very fine now that I'm off the county board."

Payne thanked all of her supporters Tuesday night and said she looked forward to the time ahead.

"It was a pleasure having an opportunity to speak with many of the wonderful people in our community," said Payne. "I will work hard to provide the leadership that our community deserves. I also want to thank John Molinaro for his years of service on the county board."

Four other newcomers to the board — Kirk Lund, Michael Wineke, Peter Hartz and Katherine Murley — gained seats after the incumbents failed to file candidacy papers or resigned their positions, leaving the race wide open for those looking to serve.

Only six county board races were contested, with all except District 16 retaining the incumbent.

The following outlines the vote tallies according to the district.

District 14

Longtime incumbent Supervisor Pamela Rogers from the City of Lake Mills did not seek re-election in the district, which includes Lake Mills Wards 1, 3, 5 and 8 in the City of Lake Mills.

Newcomer Kirk Lund was facing former Supervisor Rex Weston for this seat on the board.

Kirk Lund won the seat picking up 448 votes to Weston's 247 votes.

“I want to thank all the people in Lake Mills who volunteered to knock on doors and make phone calls for my campaign,” said Lund. “I look forward to representing the district on the county board by working to find common ground, to foster open, honest and accountable government.”

Lund also ran for the seat two years ago, losing to Rogers by only 12 votes. He called that experience positive in every way, but said “it feels good to win.”

Weston, who has served on the Jefferson County Board previously, said Tuesday night, as he did throughout the race, that he thought Lund would serve the district well.

“I’d like to offer my congratulations to Kirk Lund. I think he worked very hard at his campaign and it’s a good victory for him,” he said. “He deserves it. I think that he brings a really interesting set of life experiences. I think he’s going to be a real asset to the Jefferson County board.”

District 20

Incumbent Jim Mode held on to his District 20 seat, which represents Wards 1,2 and 3 in the Town of Jefferson and Ward 4 in the Town of Oakland.

He faced challenger Frankie Fuller in the election, and retained the seat with 292 votes over Fuller’s 123.

“I had a wonderful time meeting some new people in my neighborhood and renewing acquaintances with others whom I met the last time I ran,” Fuller said. “I learned a lot. The biggest complaint was with the way the county plows the highways.”

She noted that some of the houses that were vacant the last time she ran are filled with new residents, but there seems to be a pocket of vacant houses near the Helenville area.

“There are some interesting businesses in the area and it was a rewarding experience,” Fuller said. “I wish Jim Mode well as a county board supervisor for another two years and I would like to thank everyone who voted for me.”

District 23

For the District 23 seat representing Wards 1 and 2 in the Town of Koshkonong and Ward 8 in the City of Fort Atkinson, incumbent George Jaeckel, who also serves on the Town of Koshkonong Board of Supervisors, was challenged by former Supervisor Tim Griep.

Voters chose to keep Jaeckel on the board with 335 votes, while Griep picked up 178 votes.

District 26

Incumbent Supervisor Carlton Zentner faced newcomer James Jorgenson in the District 26 contest, but Zentner managed to retain his seat after the votes were counted.

Zentner picked up 292 votes, while Jorgenson netted a total of 256 votes.

The district includes Wards 1 and 2 in the City of Fort Atkinson.

District 27

Voters in District 27, which includes Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Fort Atkinson, retained incumbent Glen Borland as their representative on the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, after a close contest by challenger Robert Bennett.

Borland earned 252 votes in his bid for re-election, with Bennett close behind, garnering 236 votes.

Unopposed

District 8

After Supervisor Rick Kuhlman resigned from the board in September to spend more time with his family, the District 8 seat on the board was left vacant in anticipation of the upcoming election. Kuhlman had served on the board for seven-and-a-half years.

Newcomer Michael Wineke was unopposed in his bid for the seat. He earned 283 votes.

Wineke will represent wards 17 and 18 in the City of Watertown.

District 12

Johnson Creek representative incumbent Greg Torres did not seek re-election in District 12.

Newcomer Peter Hartz earned 705 votes in an unopposed bid for the seat.

The district includes Wards 1, 2 and 3 in the Village of Johnson Creek.

District 24

Incumbent Supervisor Sarah Bregant did not seek re-election in District 24, which includes Wards 11 and 12 in the City of Whitewater.

No one filed nomination papers by the January deadline for the seat. Thus, a write-in candidate with the most votes could win the seat.

Katherine Murley, with two write-in votes, was the unofficial winner of the seat. The results could change with outstanding absentee ballots.

Other districts

Unopposed incumbents who sought re-election included: Richard Jones, District 1, 276 votes, Wards 1, 2, 3 and 4 in the City of Waterloo; Mike Kelly, District 2, 229 votes, Wards 1 and 2, Town of Milford, Town of Waterloo, Ward 5 City of Waterloo; Greg David, District 3, 225 votes,

Wards 1 and 2, Town of Watertown and Ward 8 in the City of Watertown; Augie Tietz, District 4, 100 votes, Wards 9 and 10, City of Watertown; James Braugher, District 5, 99 votes, Wards 11 and 12 City of Watertown; Ron Buchanan, District 6, 137 votes, Wards 15 and 16 in the City of Watertown; Dwayne Morris, District 7, 136 votes, Wards 13 and 14 in the City of Watertown; Amy Rinard, District 9, 152 votes, Wards 1, 2, 5 and 6, Town of Ixonia and Ward 2 Village of Lac La Belle; Al Counsell, District 10, 135 votes, Wards 1 and 3, town of Concord, Wards 3 and 4, Town of Ixonia; Donald Reese, District 11, 583 votes, Ward 2 in the Town of Aztalan, Ward 2 in the Town of Concord and Wards 1 and 2 in the Town of Farmington; Ed Morse, District 13, 385 votes, Wards 2, 4, 6 and 7 in the City of Lake Mills; Steven Nass, District 15, 76 votes, Ward 1 in the Town of Aztalan and Wards 1, 2 and 3 in the Town of Lake Mills; Russell Kutz, District 17, 136 votes, Wards 8 and 9 in the City of Jefferson; Jennifer Hanneman, District 18, Wards 3, 4 and 5 in the City of Jefferson, 188 votes; Jim Schroeder, 214 votes, District 19, Wards 1, 2 and 10 in the City of Jefferson; John C. Kannard, District 21, 152 votes, Wards 1, 2 and 3 in the Town of Sullivan and Ward 1 in the Village of Sullivan.

Also, Blane Poulson, District 22, 282 votes, Ward 1 in the Town of Palmyra and Wards 1 and 2 in the Village of Palmyra; Matthew Foelker, District 25, 286 votes, Ward 1 in the Town of Cold Spring, Wards 1 and 2 in the Town of Hebron, Ward 3 in the Town of Koshkonong, Ward 2 in the Town of Palmyra and Ward 10 in the City of Whitewater; Dick Schultz, District 28, 405 votes, Wards 7 and 9 in the City of Fort Atkinson; Paul Babcock, District 29, 343 votes, Wards 5 and 6 in the City of Fort Atkinson; Walt Christensen, District 30, 354 votes, Wards 4, 5 and 6 in the Town of Koshkonong and all of the Town of Sumner.