

District 27 recount under way

By Lydia Statz, Union staff writer | Posted: Wednesday, April 9, 2014 9:30 am

JEFFERSON — A recount was taking place this morning to confirm the results of the District 27 Jefferson County Board of Supervisors race in the April 1 election.

The official tally from the spring election, after the Board of Canvassers met Tuesday to certify the results, placed incumbent Glen Borland as the winner with 252 votes, and challenger Robert Bennett trailing with 236. There were two write-ins.

Borland was one of 25 board members who were re-elected to their seat last week.

However, Bennett filed a recount petition on Tuesday, and the recount was set for 9 this morning at the Jefferson County Courthouse.

District 27 includes Wards 3 and 4 in the City of Fort Atkinson.

No other recount petitions have been filed with the county at this time. Recount petitions must be filed no later than 5 p.m. on the third day following the Board of Canvasser's certification of election results, or Friday, April 11.

County Clerk Barbara Frank noted that an error had occurred during the ballot printing process.

The order in which candidates are printed on the ballot is determined by a random drawing.

Though Bennett's name was supposed to be printed first on the ballot, a clerical error caused his name to be listed second, under Borland's.

Bennett said that was the largest factor in his decision to seek a recount.

"About 3- to 5-percent of people, when they don't know the candidates, will just vote for the top person," Bennett said. "And I lost by about 3.3 percent."

During a recount, all ballots are reviewed by hand to ensure the number recorded matches up with the number of votes, and are then fed back into the machine to confirm the results.

Frank said she would expect the county's new voting machines to prove even more accurate than those used in past elections.

"In the past, when it couldn't read a vote, it was because someone maybe marked it too lightly or used blue ink or something. Well, these machines read those too," the county clerk said.