

Evangelidis, Hargraves take state rep. races

By Caitlyn Kelleher
JOURNAL STAFF REPORTER

Local voters stuck to whom they know by re-electing two Republican incumbents in each Westminster and Townsend state representative races.

Lewis Evangelidis (R-Holden) beat Democrat opponent Nate Kaplan, of Hubbardston, to earn a third term in the 1st Worcester District. Westminster voters mirrored the results throughout the district, supporting Evangelidis by a vote of 1,922 to 1,167.

"I have the greatest group of supporters; we worked so hard every day," Evangelidis said from his victory party in Holden on Tuesday night. "I love this job, and I'm energized to continue working hard for this district."

Evangelidis took the district — which includes Westminster, Holden, Princeton, Hubbardston, Oakham, Rutland and one precinct of Sterling — with about 69 percent of the vote. Kaplan took about 31 percent of the vote.

"When you run a race, you never know how you're doing. If you do the job right, people will recognize it. And tonight, I think people were saying we did the job

right."

The other contested state representative race in the area was a face-off between Republican incumbent Robert Hargraves and Democrat challenger Carol Bousquet for the seat in the 1st Middlesex District.

"I feel good about (the win)," Hargraves said Wednesday afternoon. "I'm up beat about the upcoming term."

He is looking forward to getting the new health coverage issue "up and running properly" and working on getting competitive automotive insurance.

Hargraves received 7,017 votes for the district comprising of Townsend, Ayer, Groton and Pepperell.

The non-binding referendum question calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq appeared on the ballots of Ashby, Ashburnham and Westminster, passing in each of the towns.

Voters in Ashby passed the measure 619-563, while voters in Ashburnham passed it 1,206-874 and Westminster voters passed it 1,576-1302.

With reporting from *The Landmark newspaper*.

RESULTS

ASHBY

Governor

Kerry Healey & Reed Hillman (R) 591
Deval Patrick & Tim Murray (D) 581
Christy Mihos & John Sullivan (I) 131
Grace Ross & Martina Robinson (GP) 28

Question 1 (sale of wine by food stores)
Yes 637 No 677

Question 2 (nominations of candidates)
Yes 433 No 783

Question 3 (family childcare providers)
Yes 585 No 639

Question 4 (war referendum)
Yes 619 No 563

ASHBURNHAM

Governor

Kerry Healey & Reed Hillman (R) 937
Deval Patrick & Tim Murray (D) 1179
Christy Mihos & John Sullivan (I) 200
Grace Ross & Martina Robinson (GP) 48

Question 1 (sale of wine by food stores)
Yes 1066 No 1183

Question 2 (nominations of candidates)
Yes 760 No 1380

Question 3 (family childcare providers)
Yes 1094 No 1059

Question 4 (war referendum)
Yes 1206 No 874

TOWNSEND

State Representative

Robert Hargraves (R) 2067
Carol Bousquet (D) 1211

Governor

Kerry Healey & Reed Hillman (R) 1668
Deval Patrick & Tim Murray (D) 1345
Christy Mihos & John Sullivan (I) 278
Grace Ross & Martina Robinson (GP) 77

Question 1 (sale of wine by food stores)
Yes 1469 No 1770

Question 2 (nominations of candidates)
Yes 929 No 2148

Question 3 (family childcare providers)
Yes 1300 No 1792

WESTMINSTER

State Representative

Lew Evangelidis (R) 1922
Nate Kaplan (D) 1167

Governor

Kerry Healey & Reed Hillman (R) 1354
Deval Patrick & Tim Murray (D) 1472
Christy Mihos & John Sullivan (I) 300
Grace Ross & Martina Robinson (GP) 68

Question 1 (sale of wine by food stores)
Yes 1284 No 1818

Question 2 (nominations of candidates)
Yes 927 No 2033

Question 3 (family childcare providers)
Yes 1362 No 1618

Question 4 (war referendum)
Yes 1576 No 1302

Building skills

Continued from page 1

Family Goal Setting workshop on Thursday, Nov. 17, at Hawthorne Brook Middle School in Townsend.

Miller says she likes that the program works with students, teachers and families.

"It sounds like a win-win situation," she said. "It makes [the students'] work here

a lot more meaningful if they can see the connection to their future."

Miller was especially pleased that she didn't have to find money for the classes in an already tight budget.

Brideau, who recently bought Ashby Oil, is donating \$2,500 for the program. He

Family Goal Setting workshop will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17, at 6 p.m. at Hawthorne Brook Middle School in Townsend.

has been working with Desrosiers for five years in other school districts.

The father of four between the ages of 28 and 10, Brideau agrees with the need to foster essential skills in children.

"I have experience and I'm still experiencing the youth of today," he said.

Desrosiers started working with middle schoolers in 2001 after spending 14 years gearing his skills-building program to adults.

"It's just goal setting," Desrosiers said. "It works for everybody."

The first year he designed the program he taught it at Overlook Middle School and students from Oakmont Regional High School illustrated the book.

ALS services

Continued from page 1

vice while predicting a \$450,000 town deficit for the next fiscal year.

"Are we going to ask for more state aid? Are we going to cut funding to other departments? These funding issues need to be addressed before we merge the two departments together," Marshall said.

The public hearing was held on Nov. 6 at the town hall, so residents could get the chance to hear the proposal before the special town meeting.

Voters will face an article at the special town meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 14, which would put in place a bylaw that reads, "there shall be a fire and ambulance department."

The first day of the merged department would be July 1, 2007.

Fire Chief William Donahue touched upon this issue in a power point presentation he gave at the beginning of the meeting.

According to a report submitted by the Fire and EMS Merger Committee, in 2006, the EMS department is being funded by two sources, \$250,000 from the EMS reserve receipt account and \$215,474 from tax dollars.

The report also says that when the option of having the

ALS service in Townsend was discussed back in 2004, it was never determined that the service would be self-funded.

Selectman David Chenelle said the financial issues would not change whether the two departments merged together or not.

"Let's concentrate on the merger, not whether to take ALS on or off the table," Chenelle said.

He asked Andrea Wood, the financial committee secretary, what the monetary savings to the town would be if there were to be single department.

The merger calls for shifting two EMS workers to a "fire function" position.

Because of this, Woods said, there would be an immediate savings of \$9,919 from the changed workers compensation cost.

Wood warned selectmen the town would run the risk of having to pay out more money for disability issues. The insurance plan offered to firefighters covers 100 percent of medical costs, along with a \$600 stipend per week. The plan for EMS workers covers only 70 percent.

The report submitted to the selectmen and the public also highlights two other areas where money could be saved.

If the two departments were to merge, EMS workers

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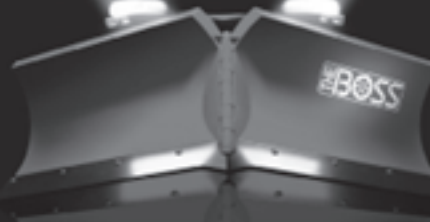
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