

In the 9th Congressional District Democratic primary race to unseat incumbent Todd Young, Shelli Yoder has claimed a decisive victory in a field of five candidates.

Yoder garnered 47% of the vote with 100% reporting.

Robert Winningham, an Economic Development Director and former aide to longtime U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton of Indiana, was second.

Winningham formally conceded the Ninth District Democratic Congressional race on election night following early poll returns throughout the district.

Yoder said she got a late start and had some ground to make up.

“We started this campaign less than three months ago, filing on the very last day, and in that time we have proven one thing above all others,” Yoder said. “We’ve shown that it is still possible for a grassroots campaign to win. We’ve also proven that everyday people who care about their families are committed to making a better life for their neighbors and communities, can join together and make their voices heard.”

Winningham said he and his staff did all they could.

“I very proud of the effort we made,” Winningham said to a crowd of supporters gathered at his campaign headquarters. “Our staff and volunteers preformed magnificently and I hold no regrets in how we managed this race.”

Besides Winningham, Yoder competed against three other candidates, General Jonathan George, John Miller and Colonel John Tilford.

“I want to take a moment to salute the other candidates in this race,” she said. “The 9th District is fortunate to have fielded such admirable, hard-working candidates. Over the past three months, I have gotten a chance to meet them, and to discuss and debate the issues with them.

“They are all wonderful people who have done impressive things in their lives of which they are justifiably proud. And I genuinely hope they will join us in fighting for victory in November.”

Yoder also thanked her family, which includes husband Josh Perry and their three children, as well as her parents.

The Yoder campaign celebrated with other local Monroe County candidates and supporters at the Monroe County Democratic Headquarters in Bloomington.

“(Wednesday, May 9) we will hit the campaign trail again, and over the next six months travel to every community and county in the 9th District to make our case for changing “politics-as-usual” in Congress,” Yoder said. “But tonight, it’s time to celebrate a really important victory for everyday Hoosier families.

Yoder’s key issues are creating jobs and expanding economic opportunity for all Hoosier families. Her plan includes increasing opportunities for worker training, funding for health research initiatives, and investing in infrastructure and green technologies. Yoder is running to unseat Todd Young in the general election on November 6, 2012. For more information on Yoder’s candidacy, please go to www.shellyyoderforcongress.com.