

Scott County votes on national and statewide races occasionally reflected final outcomes

Written by Marty Randall

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Though most Scott County voters split their tickets when they cast ballots on Tuesday, November 6, national and state wins among Republican candidates were far and few between, according to local results.

Republican Party candidate Mitt Romney and vice presidential running mate Paul Ryan won by a 52-to-46% split in Scott County over President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden, the Democrat Party's candidates.

Voting totals were 4,539 for Romney/Ryan and 3,998 for Obama/Biden. In Scott County, Libertarian presidential candidate Gary L. Johnson received 179 votes or 2% of those cast. Write-in candidates received 35 votes or 0.40%.

Statewide, President Obama again lost Indiana to the Republicans, receiving 1,135,983 votes to Romney's 1,408,889 votes. Johnson received 49,688 votes for 2%.

Where local Democrats flexed their political muscles was weighing in on the statewide U.S. Senate race between Republican Richard Mourdock and the Democrats' Joe Donnelly; the Indiana Governor's race between the Republicans' Mike Pence and the Democrats' John Gregg; Congressional races in Districts 6 and 9; the Districts 66 and 73 races in the Indiana House; and Republican Dr. Tony Bennett's bid for a second term as Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction against newcomer Glenda Ritz, the Democrat candidate.

Murdock, plagued by missteps late in his campaign, lost to Donnelly 4,552 votes to 3,589 votes or a margin of 53-to-42%. The statewide results were a little tighter between the two, but Mourdock, a Tea Party Republican, still lost his bid to serve in the seat of former U.S. Senator Richard Lugar by a margin of 50-to-44%. Those vote totals were Donnelly 1,263,651 to 1,123,874.

Andrew Horning, the Libertarian candidate received 422 Scott County votes or 5%. There were also five write-in votes in that race. In the state race, Horning received 6% of votes or 145,969.

In the Governor's race, local voters went for John R. Gregg, giving him a slim winning margin of 4,287 votes, 50%, to now Governor-Elect Pence's 4,069 votes, 47%. Three percent went to Rupert Boneham, the Libertarian Party candidate, and three write-in votes were tabulated.

Statewide, Pence won with a vote total of 1,264,649, 49.8%, to Gregg's 1,183,001, 46.2%. Boneham received 101,010 votes for 4%.

Also in contested state offices, voters in Scott County agreed that current Attorney General Greg Zoeller, a Republican, should get another term. He beat Democrat Kay Fleming 4,354 votes to 3,979 votes for a 52 to 48% local decision, which reflected state totals.

What many voters around the state decided was that Republican Dr. Tony Bennett, who once lived and worked in Scott County, did not deserve another term as Superintendent of Public Instruction. Republican-turned-Democrat Glenda Ritz conducted a strong grassroots campaign that involved many, apparently dissatisfied, teachers. Ritz took the win in Scott County 4,852 votes to Bennett's 3,633 votes for a 57-to-43% finish. Her win was a little smaller statewide, 52.5% to Bennett's 47.5%, but the message was the same from Indiana voters: Dr. Bennett's term in office was cut to just four years.

In the District 6 Congressional race, Republican Luke Messer wasn't as popular as his Democrat opponent, Bradley T. Bookout, among Scott County voters. Messer received 1,664 votes, 42%, to Bookout's 2,091 votes, 53%. Libertarian Rex Bell received 179 votes for 5% and there were three write-in votes.

Again, another picture emerged from district-wide results. Messer is now a Congressman-Elect

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with 159,998 votes, 59%, to Bookout's 95,495 votes, 35%. Bell received a total of 15,781 votes or 6%.

Ninth District Congressman Todd Young is returning to his job next year. The Republican did not carry Scott County, getting 2,109 votes to Democrat challenger Shelli Yoder's 2,452 for a 54 to 46% split. In the district, he turned the tables on Yoder, receiving 156,029 votes to Yoder's 118,872 total. Percentage-wise, that was a 57 to 43% decision.

In the District 66 State Representative race between Democrat incumbent Terry Goodin and Republican challenger Justin Stevens, it was a fight between two hometown boys. Goodin still lives just outside of Austin. Stevens has a Scottsburg address. Goodin received solid support, receiving 5,142 votes to Stevens' 3,626 for a county split of 59 to 41%.

In the district, Goodin prevailed by 51%, receiving 9,910 votes to Stevens' 9,353 votes for 49%. Goodin will begin his seventh term in the Indiana House in January.

The District 73 race between Republican incumbent Steve Davisson and his Democrat challenger, Sandra Blanton, was too close to call for a while. Davisson pulled out a win over Blanton by a 54-to-46% margin, receiving 13,354 votes to 11,159 votes. Davisson represents a portion of western SCott county and has relatives living locally.

Official county records for the November 6 race indicate that 1,424 voters cast a straight Democrat Party ballot. A total of 945 Republicans did the same for their party candidates. Another 86 people voted a straight Libertarian Party ticket.

Of the 19,315 registered voters in Scott County, 8,929 voted November 6 for an official turnout of 46%.