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Wind challengers blown away in Cohocton, Howard

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COHOCTON - Despite challenges from residents upset with the way local governments have been run, incumbents in Cohocton and Howard blew the anti-wind tickets away Tuesday.

In Cohocton, incumbents won their re-election bids by majorities similar to those in the Republican Primary on Sept. 18. For the position of town supervisor, Republican incumbent Jack Zigenfus defeated Reform Cohocton challenger Judith Hall 506-210. Hall replaced Robert Strasburg after he was defeated by Zigenfus in September 323-142.

The results of the vote were not unexpected, according to Zigenfus and Hall.

"Obviously, I'm disappointed," Hall said, "but it was expected in this town. I'm surprised more people didn't get out to vote in such a controversial election."

"The numbers speak for themselves," Zigenfus said. "We're going to continue to do what we think is the right thing to do."

"If I'm going to win, I want to win by people believing we're doing the right thing," he added. "I don't want to win by 51 percent."

Zigenfus said it was the largest majority he had won by in the four times he has run for the supervisor position.

In the town clerk race, seven-year Republican clerk Sandra Riley beat out Reform Cohocton challenger Blair Hall, 588-141. Incumbent Republican town Justice Hal Graham defeated Reform Cohocton candidate Stoner Clark, 511-190.

In the five-way race for two seats on the town board, Republican incumbents Milton LeVesque and Wayne Hunt held onto their seats with 426 and 410 votes, respectively. Reform Cohocton challengers Cesare Taccone and Stephen Trude earned 176 and 211 votes, respectively, and Democratic challenger Harold Kiesel finished with 146 votes.

Republican town Assessors Joanne Damboise and Mark Densmore also kept their jobs with 524 and 437 votes, respectively, while Reform Cohocton challengers Rebecca Conard earned 267 votes and Bonnie Palmiter received 186.

In Howard, the results were similar to those in Cohocton.

Republican town Clerk Loreen Karr kept her position against challenger Debra Hardy by a vote of 276 to 153.

Among the five candidates for the two town board seats, Republican incumbents William Hatch and Robert Palmer kept their positions with 202 and 179 votes, respectively. Democrat Garold Stewart received 152 votes, Independent Eric Hosmer received 113, and Democrat Charles Woodworth received 79 votes.

Town Supervisor Donald Evia won his unopposed bid for re-election with 230 votes.

“It think it was a good turn out for voters,” Karr said. “It was a good election.”

“We'll just see how things go,” Hardy said. “Maybe just by running, things will change.”