

## ELECTION 2009

## FIELD

## Gynn out; 3 newcomers win school board contest

By Diane Smith  
Record-Courier staff writer

Three newcomers will be joining the Field Board of Education next year after winning seats on the panel Tuesday in a hotly contested race that saw the ouster of board president David Gynn.

Allyson Westover was the top vote-getter in the race with 2,197 votes, followed by Donna J. Karg, 2,031; and Terry Kettering, 1,926 votes, according to complete but unofficial results from the Portage County Board of Elections.

Gynn lost the race, placing fourth with 1,689 votes, while Jeremy

Powell came in fifth with 1,642 votes.

Westover, Karg and Powell ran as a slate.

Westover said Tuesday she is looking forward to working with the rest of the board.

"I think we'll be a good team," she said. "We're all out for what is

best for the students and that's what we're going to accomplish."

Karg, who was shocked to hear that she won a seat, said the board needs to work to unify the district.

"We need to definitely satisfy our teachers," Karg said. "We've got to ratify a contract we can all be

proud of. And we need to address enrollment we are losing at the high school level."

Kettering said his goal will be to address the district's financial condition.

"I think that will be our goal, to get our district financially stable first," he said.

## ROOTSTOWN

## New face, incumbent for trustees

ROOTSTOWN — Voters have returned one incumbent and elected one fresh face to the board of trustees in a crowded, 11-candidate field.

Incumbent Diane Dillon won a third four-year term with 561 votes, the highest tally in the race, and Brett A. Housley took second, with 546 votes according to complete but unofficial results from the Portage County Board of Elections.

Incumbent David Armtrout came in fourth with 485 votes. He was seeking a fourth four-year term as trustee.

Other candidates in the race were Bill Madlem, 492; Tom Weese Jr., 429; Luke Darrah, 427 votes; Jim Manion, 427; Roy J. Kelsey, 416; Ron Snyder, 400; James R. Gerren, 391; and James Greener, 167.

The race was partly driven by a legal dispute between the township and the Rootstown Water Company over who is responsible for fire hydrants.

Housley, a lawyer and life resident of Rootstown, is commissioner of the Rootstown Soccer Club and a deacon of Grace Church of Rootstown.

## AURORA

## Lynn McGill wins third mayoral term

By Ken Lahmers  
Aurora Advocate editor

AURORA — Mayor Lynn McGill will serve his third term starting Jan. 1.

He was re-elected with 2,457 votes to Councilman John Kudley's 1,597 and Councilman Tom Dreher's 1,158, according to complete but unofficial results from the Portage County Board of Elections.

In other races, At-large Councilman Joe Kastelic re-



McGill

tained his seat with 2,205 votes to Brady Krebs' 1,615 and Richard Duncan's 703. In Ward 1, Councilman Jim Vaca beat Fred Rote 314 to 154.

McGill, 80, was first elected in 2001, while Kastelic, 53, has been a councilman for 12 years and Vaca, 66, has served for 14 years.

"I'm excited," said McGill. "It's been a wonderful last eight years. We've done a lot to correct problems in the city. With that behind us, we'll try to accomplish some fun things."

McGill said he believes the margin of victory was "a vote of confidence for me. I'm regenerated and ready for another four years."

## SCHOOLS

## Rootstown, Windham renewal levies OK'd

By Colin McEwen  
Record-Courier staff writer

Both the Rootstown School District and the Windham Exempted Village School District passed their renewal levies Tuesday.

Issue 41, a 5.29-mill, five-year renewal levy on the Rootstown ballot, won by a vote of 1,701 to 968, according to complete but unofficial results from the Portage County Board of

Elections.

Issue 45, a 5.8-mill, five-year renewal levy on the Windham ballot, was approved 581-397.

Both levies will fund basic programs and services such as utilities, maintenance supplies, building and equipment repairs.

The Rootstown levy will raise will raise \$965,056 per year.

The Windham levy will raise \$339,000 per year.

## Coia, Artz win in Ravenna Twp.

Vince Coia will be joining the Ravenna Township Board of Trustees after topping a three-way race Tuesday.

Coia led the field with 1,404 votes, followed by incumbent Patsy Artz, who was re-elected with 1,243 votes, according to complete but unofficial returns from the Portage County Board of

Elections.

Trustee Robert Cherry placed third with 983 votes, losing his bid for a fourth term. He has been a trustee since 1994.

Coia credited his victory to door-to-door campaigning and said he looks forward to being a township trustee.

"I will definitely put my best foot forward," he said.

The levy would have provided local funding to the library district for the first time.

Earlier this year, the district library made several cutbacks in hours and materials, cuts the district had hoped to restore with the levy funding.

The district libraries are completely dependent on state

funding, which has declined in recent years.

Cecelia Swanson, director of the Portage District Library, said it would be up to the board to decide whether the levy will be put back on the ballot.

"We'll just keep going on like we have these past months," she said.

re-elected — his family, City Council and the voters.

"There will be challenges in the next four years, but council and myself will face them," he said.

Vaca said he's ready to go another four years, and hopes to see more projects completed in his ward, including road repairs and storm sewer improvements.

"I'm content with my victory, and I look forward to doing what I've been doing."

Ward 3 Councilman Carl Rausch and Ward 5 rep James Fisher ran without opposition, as did Board of Education incumbents Gerald Kohanski, Beverly Kuch and Pam Mellis.

## BRIMFIELD

## Trustee unseated, another retains seat

By Matt Fredmonsky  
Record-Courier staff writer

Brimfield Township voters unseated an incumbent on the township board of trustees and replaced him with the community's longtime fiscal officer in Tuesday's election.

Incumbent Mike Kostensky retained his seat Tuesday, but Dan Tronge lost his position on the board to Charles

"Chick" Sprague, who served as Brimfield's fiscal officer for 20 years until his recent retirement.

Kostensky led the field with 1,664, followed by Sprague with 1,134, according to complete but unofficial results from the Portage County Board of Elections. Tronge, who has served as trustee for the past five years, received 561 votes.

## STOW

## Razor and Hicken upset council incumbents

Stow Sentry

Stow City Council will see two new faces after political newcomers Mike Razor and Joe Hicken unseated incumbents Tuesday.

Razor topped the race for council's three at-large seats with 4,452, followed by incumbents Janet D'Antonio, 4,011, and Sara Drew, 3,977. Incumbent Ron Alexander

came in fourth with 3,864, followed by Brian Lowdermilk, 3,410 and Elgie Mark Underwood, 3,244 votes.

In Ward 4, incumbent Mary Bednar lost her write-in battle to retain her seat to challenger Joe Hicken, who garnered 1,104 votes to Bednar's 759.

In Ward 1, incumbent Matt Riehl won over Doris Stewart, 1,557 to 751. In Ward 2, incumbent Jim Costello de-

## WATERLOO

## Pusateri wins, and Whittlesey unseats Bolanz

Voters in the Waterloo School District gave a long-term Board of Education member another term, but chose a newcomer over a first-term incumbent for the second available seat.

Brian Pusateri won his sixth term on the board with 1,105 votes, according to complete but unofficial results from the Portage County Board of Elections. Pusateri received the most votes of the eight candidates.

Dianne M. Whittlesey won the second spot on the board with 700 votes.

Incumbent Tara Bolanz, seeking a second four-year term on the board, came in seventh out of eight candidates with 369 votes.

Others in the race were Steve Jones with 663 votes; Cynthia Franks, 615; Jason Brian Trautman, 608; and Matthew Montgomery, 587; and Jason Dean Braddock, 98.

Pusateri said he hoped to establish an automated emergency call system, set up a system to allow parents to monitor their child's grades and progress from home, and offer dual credits toward college for graduating seniors.

Whittlesey, the owner of a Rootstown hair salon, said she hoped to improve relations with the community. Whittlesey also said she would increase the grade point average requirement for sports.

## PORTAGE COUNTY

## Children's levy wins, health issue defeated

Issue 4, a renewal levy for Portage County Children's Services, was strongly approved by voters while Issue 5, an additional levy for the Portage County Health District, was turned down almost as strongly.

The vote on Issue 4 was 28,402 for the levy to 14,967 against, according to complete but unofficial tallies from the Portage County Board of Elections.

The vote on Issue 5 was 13,583 for the health levy to 22,286 against.

The Children's Services levy, a 0.75-mill, five-year

renewal levy for the care, placement and treatment of abused, neglected and dependent children, will raise \$1.6 million annually for five years beginning in 2010.

The county health district, which serves all of the county with the exception of Ravenna and Kent, has not been able to pass an additional levy since 1955 when an existing 0.4-mill measure was first adopted.

The health district levy would have raised approximately \$1.1 million annually for five years beginning with the tax year 2009.

## Dorsey wins; Ferrara and Boykin are re-elected

Marlene Dorsey won a seat on the Kent Board of Education and incumbents Brian Boykin and Ryan Ferrara retained their seats in Tuesday's balloting.

Ferrara led the four-way race with 3,408 votes, fol-

lowed by Boykin, 3,052, and Dorsey, 2,785 votes. Michael Finley, the fourth candidate, received 2,285 votes in Tuesday's election, according to complete but unofficial returns from the Portage County Board of Elections.

seat was not up for election Tuesday.

Sprague, 68, said he is looking forward to working with Kostensky and Fields.

"Hopefully (our relationship) will pan out really well," he said. "I think we'll get along."

Kostensky, who has been a trustee for the past eight years, could not be reached for comment for this story.

Welsh, vied for the Ward 5 seat, with Meyer victorious with 186 votes to Welsh's 113.

This year's election was a first for the city voters. City Council representation by wards will be established for three of the city's six wards in the upcoming general election, a change from the present setup of all at-large representation.