

ELECTION 2009

Issue 1 payments may take year to go out

By Marc Kovac
Record-Courier Capital Bureau

COLUMBUS — It likely will be at least a year before veterans of recent and ongoing military conflicts in Iraq and the Middle East to receive state bonus payments OK'd by voters Tuesday.

That's because the it will take time for the rules for the program and the bonds backing the payments

to be finalized by state officials.

Jim Gravelle, spokesman for the Ohio Department of Veterans Services, said it could be about a year before checks are issued, though other states have taken longer to implement comparable programs — Pennsylvania took 18 months.

With Tuesday's passage, the constitutional amendment will allow the state to borrow up to \$200 million to pay cash bonuses to Ohio military

men and women who served in the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq — those serving in current conflicts in the area, plus those involved in Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s.

Veterans will be paid \$100 per month, up to \$1,000, for time served in those areas or \$50 a month, up to \$500, for those serving in the military at the time in other locations. Families of veterans who died in

action will be eligible for a \$5,000 death benefit. Similar cash bonuses were approved by voters and paid to veterans of other wars and conflicts, dating back to World War I.

But it will take months before the bonus payments are in veterans' hands. After the Secretary of State certifies Tuesday's election results, the Ohio Department of Veterans Services will begin developing rules for the bonus payments, outlining

the application process. A state lawmaker panel, the Ohio Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review, has to sign off on them before they're final. The process is expected to take about three months, Gravelle said.

Afterward, the state's Public Facilities Commission will have to issue and sell bonds to pay for the program. Those funds will be used to hire staff and rent office space needed to implement the program.

40 percent turnout at polls
Portage officials pleased with smooth county vote

By Mike Sever
Record-Courier staff writer

Tuesday's turnout prediction was right on the money for Portage County election officials. The final, unofficial tally was 40.92 percent of registered voters.

Linda Marcial, elections director, and Lois Enlow, deputy director, had predicted a 40 percent turnout.

"We're very happy with the way everything went," said Marcial. Final tallies were not posted until just minutes before midnight. Marcial said there were no mechanical problems

this time. One Brimfield precinct did not come in until about 10 p.m.

Enlow, who is retiring at the end of this month, said there were no major problems at the polls during the day.

"Stuck paper rolls, questions on addresses, the usual," Enlow said.

Election officials said last-minute campaigning got too close to the polls at some locations. By law, all campaigning stops 100 feet from the polls.

Officials said they had to warn campaigners about the distance limits.

Polls were busy in Deerfield where repeal of township zoning was the ballot; in Streetsboro where there were

hotly contested races for mayor and city council; and in Rootstown where there were 11 candidates for two trustee positions.

Several long-time officials lost reelection. J.J. Leet, who was first elected a Freedom trustee in 1977, lost, as did Jack Groselle in Hiram Township and Dan Tronge in Brimfield.

Tuesday's results won't be certified until Nov. 24. A total of 618 provisional ballots must still be determined.

Last night's tally includes 5,067 absentee ballots but does not include the provisionals or overseas and military ballots.

Mayor

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there, and I prevailed," said Scott, a former Streetsboro councilman.

He said there will be no changes to the city's administration in the foreseeable future.

"It's been a tough time for everybody in the city. Now that we've gotten the uncertainties settled, it's time for us to move forward," he said.

Scott will finish the remainder of the four-year term that former Mayor Tom Wagner vacated when he resigned in May amid allegations of misconduct in office.

City council withdrew the allegations when Wagner resigned. Scott's term ends in November 2011.

Broska attributed his defeat to the number of candidates that were vying for one office.

"The time for campaigning is over. It's time now for the mayor and city council

to live up to their responsibilities to meet the challenges facing Streetsboro," Broska said. "How well we step up to that task will determine whether Streetsboro gains control of its own destiny or continues to fall behind."

According to the Portage County Board of Elections, if the final tally of votes for Scott and Broska are within 1/2 of 1 percent, there will be a recount completed by

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Dem wins NY
special election

Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — A Democrat running in a historically Republican stronghold won a closely watched special congressional election in northern New York on Tuesday.

With 92 percent of the precincts reporting, lawyer and retired Air Force Capt. Bill Owens defeated businessman Doug Hoffman, the Conservative Party candidate, 49 percent to 45 percent.

Mogadore taps three for council

MOGADORE — The top vote-getters Tuesday for the three seats available on Village Council were Matt Kelly, Michael Raddish and Steve Marks.

Complete but unofficial combined results from the Portage and Summit County Boards of Elections showed Kelly leading the six-candi-

date field with 805 votes, followed by Raddish with 639 and Marks with 603.

Also on the ballot were Donald E. Smith, who received 544 votes, followed by Mike Berger with 533 and Charlie Coffman with 284.

Unopposed on the ballot was Juliann McCulley, for village clerk-treasurer.

Levy

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to the community," she said. "I think PASS did an excellent job communicating that message. There was a tremendous amount of momentum behind the effort that PASS made."

Martin Fleming, who campaigned against the levy, said he's pleased with the result.

"I am relieved to know that families and seniors in our community will not have to face a greater burden than they are already experiencing during these hard times. I hope the administrative staff in Streetsboro City Schools will reconsider a pay decrease to include paying their share towards their retirement that the district pays to help offset the deficit the school will now experience. If they care for the children of our community as they say they do, they can at least do this to retain busing for the children."

Schettler said she was disappointed in the loss, but vowed not to give up.

"PASS is (here) to stay," she said. "The parents group is going to continue to grow."

Some of the cuts the administration has included are reduction of busing to state minimums, meaning no busing will be available for high school students and those who live within 2 miles of their school building. The following positions could be eliminated: 10 certified staff positions, one mechanic position, five custodial positions, 17 playground and lunchroom aides, all five library aides, and one administrative position. Other cost savings measures include termination of a public relations contract, increased fees for sports and "co-curricular" activities, such as choir and band, participation in the SchoolPool Electricity Program, suspended field trips, and reduction of services provided through the Portage County Educational

Issue

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build the new high school.

Now, Superintendent Joe Iacano said the district will lose some of that funding — about 9 percent — should it decide to put the measure before voters again in the spring.

"Obviously, I am disappointed," Iacano said. "I've been so supportive because this is what's best for the kids. But, I understand because financially, things have been difficult for people."

Earlier this year, district officials opted not to place the issue before voters in May, citing a need to further educate the public.

A series of meetings ensued and the Citizens for Crestwood — a volunteer group of citizens dedicated to the project — began organizing the effort to spread the word about Issue 40.

The issue would have cost owners of a \$100,000 home an additional \$7 per month.

The high school, built in 1955, has had several problems in the last few years.

During a series of tours, residents were actively en-

couraged to assess the stability of the school for themselves.

Only a handful of residents attended each tour.

Those who did show up, found rotting electrical equipment, roofs and ceilings that constantly leak water and gaps between floors and exterior walls — with enough space to drop objects into rooms below.

High school Principal Arden Sommers said recently that if the levy did not pass, the district would need to spend \$2 million alone to abate existing asbestos hidden beneath the walls. Overall repairs — including roofs, windows, and repairs to the school's infrastructure — would cost about \$8 million. And a complete renovation of the existing school would cost about \$23.1 million — 84 percent of the cost of a new school.

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LOTTERY

Night Drawings

Rolling Cash 5 — 2-18-19-25-33

Mega Millions — 5-18-23-31-38 (20)

Kicker — 7-1-7-4-5-7

Ten-Oh

2-3-7-8-9-10-14-19-22-30-31-33-34-47-49-53-59-70-71-76

Pick 3 — 6-8-7 Pick 4 — 1-7-8-1

Day Drawings

Ten-Oh

1-2-7-8-10-15-20-24-40-42-43-49-51-53-55-57-61-65-70-74

Pick 3 — 2-7-1 Pick 4 — 1-4-7-5

SOUND OFF

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One person goes to prison for eight years for DUI and I know someone else that got a DUI and they only got 90 days. Why is that?

The person that thinks there are no problems with health care must be living on another planet. FDR and Clinton both were trying to fix it. I paid \$15,000 a year to have health care. If there are no problems with your health care you must be an autoworker or a government worker.

Good afternoon. It has come to my attention that if anyone doesn't like the Constitution that creates our government, then they are an enemy of the Constitution. And, an enemy of the Constitution is an enemy of our country. That would include the entire Democratic Party.

It's good that we have laws about car seats for children. They are a safety feature. But, why don't we have them on buses? A concerned grandmother.

Everyone needs to be aware of all the problems at the park near McKinney Rd. There is a lot of vandalism in the area and the police need to patrol it more often, especially at night. People need to be aware of it.

Thank God for Fox News, Glen Beck, Rush and the alternative news services. Without them we would never know about all the scandals because the major media doesn't run the news or does a poor job of it. I would not have known about the federally funded national endowment for the arts and the cartoon showing Obama. I would have been offended by that cartoon. (Ed. note: Sorry caller, but you went very fast, had long pauses and your message was difficult to follow. I hope I got it reasonably well.)

Hello. Why was the groundbreaking of the new \$2 million Suffield fire station in another newspaper first? We need more Suffield news in the Record-Courier. (Ed. note: We had a story and photograph of the event on our front page on October 9. Not certain when the other paper ran it.)

Halloween is here and I'd like to know when headstones became so prominent in the holiday? It used to be pumpkins and skeletons. We recently lost a loved one and don't appreciate seeing all these headstones in the yards. It's just difficult when you see them and you are grieving.

The person that wrote about the treatment of animals should remember a few things. Some of them greatly aid humans. Seeing eye dogs, service dogs, police dogs, military dogs, etc. Thank you.

I am glad that I live in a county where we have a very ethical prosecutor and Sheriff. That is very important to me and I thank them.

What is the purpose of Jobs and Family Services? When I go there, they take my name, address and phone number and send me to use their computer. I can do that at home. I don't understand their purpose. They have never helped me at all. They don't help you find a job. They certainly could be a lot friendlier. Just what is their purpose?

I see Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. I'm not sure how they chose someone who surrounded himself with thieves, criminals and radicals, with connections to terrorist organizations, in the White House. Of course there are only five individuals who vote to select the winner. All of the polls that I've seen so far show that 75% of those responding are just as appalled as I am. Gee, I wonder if ACORN helped count the votes?

You mean to tell me that you'll put in a Sound Off about something being stolen out of a freezer in a home but you won't publish what I want to be heard about the treatment of someone in the Portage County Jail? What a shame! Who are you protecting? (Ed. note: Your comments were published. And, never underestimate freezer crime. It's very cold-blooded!)

This is to that person that thinks being on the public dole is good for those unwed mothers. Well, they should try living on \$250 a month and not much more. You should get mad at the men that helped make those babies and don't support them. At least those women are trying to raise those children. Compassion is a good word. Learn it.

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