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Provisional ballots counted

Glenn Jacobs Wins Republican Primary for Knox County Mayor

By Focus Staff

The battle for Knox County mayor and sheriff was the major draw for voters in last week's primary election with the contest for mayor even taking a look at provisional ballots.

The Republican primary for Knox County mayor was won by professional wrestler and insurance agency owner Glenn Jacobs, who bested Commissioner Brad Anders by only 17 votes on Tuesday.

Provisional ballots made no difference in the mayor's race when the election commission counted them Thursday. Of the 43 ballots, only 15 were authorized and counted: seven went to Jacobs, four to Thomas and one to Anders. Three of the provisional ballots were counted in the Democratic primary.

Anders told The Focus Thursday that he probably will not challenge the vote by asking for a recount.

All together there were 49,650 ballots cast in both Republican and Democratic primaries.

"I hope people voted for me because they saw the vision of Knox County and the Knox County as it can be," Jacobs said to his supporters after the results were announced Tuesday night. "It's a great place already but I believe in you guys and I want all of us to work together to make it even better."

Jacobs received 36.09% of the vote and Anders got 36.05%. At-Large Commissioner Bob Thomas received 27.86% of the vote. Jacobs will go on

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Republican primary election winner Glenn Jacobs and his wife Crystal address supporters on election night this past Tuesday evening. Photo by Marianne Dedman.



Tom Spangler, along with his wife Linda (right) and family members, addresses a large crowd at the Crowne Plaza in Knoxville on election night after winning the Republican nomination for Knox County Sheriff.

Tom Spangler Wins Sheriff Race by Large Margin

By Ken Lay

As AG/DC's "Thunderstruck" played in the Tennessee Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza, Knoxville Republican Party Chair Buddy Burkhardt introduced Tom Spangler as Knox County's next sheriff.

First, however, Burkhardt brought Spangler's mother Evelyn to the stage. She would later be joined by her son, who was visibly emotional as he made his way to the stage while supporters cheered.

"I'm not a polished speaker," said Spangler, who defeated Lee Trammel in Tuesday night's

Republican primary. "This is awesome. I'm almost speechless, I really am."

"Someone asked me the first thing I'm going to do, I have no idea. I think the adrenaline has kicked in now to where I don't know if I want to sleep or not. From the deepest bottom of my heart, thank you. I'm so humbled. I'm a humble man tonight."

Spangler replaces the term-limited Jimmy "J.J." Jones and will face the formality of the general election on August 2 as Democrats have no nominee.

"The hard work has paid off," Spangler said. "We ran a clean

race and we ran a grass roots campaign. If we couldn't run a clean campaign, then we didn't need to run it anyway."

During the campaign, Spangler vowed to improve working conditions at the sheriff's department and promised to put safety first in the county's schools and neighborhoods.

He pledged to be a good sheriff.

"I'm humbled but I'm honored that you people have elected me to be your next sheriff in Knox County," said Spangler, who has worked in every capacity in the sheriff's office. He served

as interim sheriff 11 years ago during Black Wednesday in 2007, when Tennessee enforced term limits. "I'm not always going to make everybody happy."

"I don't know any politician or elected official who ever has. But I will always do the right thing."

Other winners who spoke Tuesday night included Justin Biggs, who defeated R. Larry Smith in the race for Knox County Commission Seat 11. Sherry Witt, who was elected County Clerk, Rick McBride (Register of Deeds) and Larsen Jay, who defeated Ronnie Rochelle for Seat 10 on the County Commission.

School Board Votes to Approve Superintendent's Revised Budget

By Anne Primm

Many elected officials attended the special called Knox County Board of Education Monday night meeting. State Representatives Eddie Smith and Rick Staples were joined by city council members Green McKenzie, Lauren Rider and Stephanie Welch, and by county commissioners, John Schoonmaker, Dave Wright and Evelyn Gill. Sixth district school board member Terry Hill also welcomed the Teachers as Professionals class from Hardin Valley Academy.

During the evening's public forum, numerous people pleaded on behalf of programs on the budget's chopping block like Gifted and Talented, Green Magnet and Sarah Moore Green Magnet Schools and Project Grad.

Superintendent Bob Thomas' April 11th original budget eliminated all funding for Project Grad, for Green Magnet and Sarah Moore Green Magnet, and reduced funding for Gifted and Talented to only cover eight coaches (teachers) system wide.

Because of inquiries made by Representative Eddie Smith, the Tennessee Department of Education recalculated the state's Basic Education Program funding for 2019 and found an additional \$1.4 million. As a result, Superintendent Thomas has been able to allocate \$500,000 of the \$700,000 needed for Project Grad's high school program and \$270,000 for programs at the three priority elementary schools.

In addition, Thomas restored \$160,000 to Magnet School programming. The revised budget will cover the ten existing gifted

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