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PHOTO BY KEN LAY

The winners of Thursday night's election celebrate their respective victories. They gathered at the Republican watch party at the Crowne Plaza in Downtown Knoxville.

Local GOP candidates celebrate victories at Crowne Plaza

By Ken Lay

David Buuck makes it no secret that he is ready to get to work for the citizens of Knox County and he'll soon get that chance when he's sworn in as law director.

"I am the people's lawyer and I can't wait to go to work for the people of Knox County," said Buuck, who defeated independent candidate Jackson Fenner to replace the term-limited Bud Armstrong as Knox County Law Director, Thursday night. "I'm looking forward to carrying on the fine work that Bud has done for the last eight years."

"I'm looking forward to carrying on that work with the professionalism that Bud did."

Buuck worked for Armstrong in the law director's office and said that he learned plenty from his predecessor.

"I think we learned a lot from each other and we brought more than 40 years of experience," Buuck said.

Later, he made an acceptance speech. And he implored his supporters to relish their right to vote as the charter committee

considers whether to have the law director appointed by the county mayor rather than having that person elected by the citizens of Knox County.

"There is nothing more sacred than the right to vote," Buuck said. "But there are people out there that want to take that right away from you, and you may see that on the ballot and you may see it on the ballot in November."

Buuck also expressed gratitude to his family for their support during the campaign and the election cycle.

"When you run for office, your whole family runs with you. This year, during the pandemic, it was a little tougher because you have to go out and campaign," Buuck said.

In other local races, Eric Lutton defeated independent candidate Sherif Guindi for Knox County Public Defender.

On the county commission, Grant Rosenberg won the District 2 seat, Kyle Ward won in District 4 and John Schoonmaker won in District 5.

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David Buuck was elected Knox County Law Director Thursday night as he defeated independent candidate Jackson Fenner. Buuck replaces the term-limited Bud Armstrong and promises to be "the people's lawyer."

Some surprises in Knox County voting choices

By Mike Steely
Senior Writer
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Thursday's local and state election brought some surprises for Knox County on several levels for both political parties. The count of absentee, early voting and election day votes went faster than expected. Some races were very close with the winners getting very narrow margins.

Chris Davis, Election Board Executive Director, said the results will be certified on August 24. About 75,422 people voted,

slightly fewer than the 81,000 total two years ago. The mail-in ballot turnout was huge, with about 12,000 voters choosing that option during the COVID-19 pandemic. Four years ago, in a similar August election, only 21,000 people voted.

There are 226 provisional ballots to be counted but Davis said there's no chance that those ballots, even if all are approved and counted, will change any results.

While Bill Hagerty easily won the Republican Primary to replace retiring U. S. Senator Lamar Alexander he lost Knox

County to Dr. Manny Sethi, who pulled 47% to Hagerty's 44%. The winner will face Democrat Marquita Bradshaw in November, although Democrat James Mackler carried our county in that primary.

Deputy Law Director David Buuck defeated Independent Jackson Fenner to become the elected Knox County Law Director. Buuck, seeking his first elected position, got 63% of the vote. Shadowing that race is the Charter Review Committee's proposal to ask voters in November to make the law director an

appointed position by the county mayor.

In the competitive primary races for Tennessee House the surprise was the big loss for District 15's state Representative Rick Staples. That Democratic Primary went to former Knox County Commissioner Sam McKenzie in a squeaker with newcomer Matthew Park. McKenzie won with just 23 votes over Park. Staples, the incumbent, received only 21% in the race. Independent Troy B. Jones will be the November

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School Mania to be held this afternoon

School Mania II is the second annual School Mania back to school celebration hosted by Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. The event will take place from 3 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 10 in the parking lot of the Jacob Building in Chilhowee Park via a drive thru format.

"This is different than we did it last year, but it's still going to be a great event," said Mayor Jacobs. "Our business partners—without whom we could never pull this off—have really stepped up this year. Thanks to them, we are going to be able to provide double the supplies we did last year. So even though it's different, in many ways it will be even better than before."

Thanks to the generous support of nearly 60 donors and financial sponsors, the mayor's office will distribute 3,000 school supply bags. Each family will also receive a fun informational bag of goodies. All items are available on a first come, first serve basis while supplies last.

Cars will enter Chilhowee Park via 3500 Knoxville Zoo Drive and follow a one-way traffic flow to exit on Magnolia Ave. A walk-up option will be available at the KAT bus stop located at the corner of Beaman St. and Magnolia Ave., directly across from Perk City.

The event gates will open at 2 p.m. to allow cars to assemble, but no school supply bags will be distributed until 3 p.m.

Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles to allow for safe physical distancing.

Emerald Youth Foundation to participate in food program

Emerald Youth Foundation is participating in the United States Department of Agriculture's Child and Adult Care Food Program through Sept. 30, 2021.

CACFP provides snacks after school, at no separate charge, to young people who participate in Emerald Youth's programs without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, at the following locations: Laurel Church of Christ, 3457 Kingston Pike, and Emerald Youth Foundation facilities at 1718 North Central Street, 601 College Street and 1740 Texas Avenue.

Additional information about CACFP is available through the Tennessee Department of Human Services at <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/children/dhs-nutrition-programs/child-and-adult-care-food-program.html>.

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