

Cauley beats LaPlaca, wins third term

By Ken Knutson

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Hinsdale voters re-elected Tom Cauley for a third term as their village president Tuesday in a tightly contested race.

Unofficial vote totals from Cook and DuPage counties show Cauley edging out village Trustee Laura LaPlaca 1,600-1,490.

Cauley said although the results came in slowly election night, he remained "guardedly optimistic" the outcome would be in his favor.

"I knew it would be a tight race," he said.

Cauley suggested his efforts to reach out to voters may have helped put him over the top.

"I will say I did spend quite a bit of time going door to door as part of my election campaign," he said.

And he was often greeted with

requests from voters to do more with regard to infrastructure upgrades.

"Residents want us to move more quickly in fixing the roads," Cauley related. "I explained the 15-year road program and the progress we've made and that we're about 50 percent through it."

Previously reluctant to borrow money for the master infrastructure program so as not to saddle the village with debt, Cauley admits his position has shifted.

"That's something that I've been thinking about. I wonder if we should be thinking about doing (infrastructure improvements) more aggressively to get it done more quickly," he said. "I'm prepared to do that."

He also made resisting the Illinois Tollway's potential widening of Interstate 294 a centerpiece of his campaign.

"We're moving ahead on that, too," he said.

LaPlaca said she also anticipated a close contest and was disappointed that it didn't break her way.

"I wish more people had voted," she said of the roughly 25 percent voter turnout. "I guess the voter turnout is never great on these off-year elections."

She reflected fondly on her eight years as a trustee and number of years prior to that serving on the Hinsdale Plan Commission.

"I enjoyed everything I did with the village," LaPlaca said. "I'll miss being a participant in the village business and activities and village governance. It's too bad that it had to end this way."

She congratulated Cauley on his victory, but stressed that the narrow margin indicated that "a number of people were dissatisfied with a num-



ber of things that were happening in the village.

"This is by no means a vote of confidence of him," she remarked.

Cauley said he never imagined that he'd be eying a third term as village president in 2017 when he was first elected to the office in 2009. But the role has suited him more than expected, he commented.

"I really enjoy the job," he said. "I like to get things done that make Hinsdale a better place. I get great satisfaction of making it a better place and making residents' lives easier."

How did Cauley celebrate his win?

"I went right to bed," he said. "Then I was up early picking up my signs."

Four D86 candidates ready to start work

They say next steps following failed \$76 million referendum will be their top priority

By Pamela Lannom

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The four individuals elected to serve on the Hinsdale High School District 86 board have their work cut out for them.

Kevin Camden and Keith Chval of Clarendon Hills, Robin Gonzales of Willowbrook and Nancy Pollak of Hinsdale were elected to four-year

terms in Tuesday's election, each garnering 24 to 26 percent of the vote (see chart). Write-in votes, presumably for write-in candidate James "Fred" Hoch, totaled 894.

One of the first issues the new board will have to address is what to do in the aftermath of the failed \$76 million facilities referendum. Voters rejected the measure by a margin of almost 3-1.

Chval said he was not surprised.

"Based on the way things played out, there was no way I could see the referendum was going to pass," he said.

The board will need to take a step back and do a better job of understanding the community's desires and addressing the enrollment imbalance between the two schools, he believes.

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Tuesday, April 4

Unofficial election results

Hinsdale village president

Tom Cauley 1,600 51.6
Laura LaPlaca 1,490 48.1

Hinsdale trustees (three seats)

Gerald Hughes 2,082
Neale Byrnes 2,048
Matthew Posthuma 2,046

Hinsdale trustee (one two-year term)

Michael Ripani 2,256

Hinsdale library trustees (three seats)

Amy Glynn 2,029
Mary Bock 2,000
Susan Blumberg-Kason 1,948

District 181 (three seats)

Margaret Kleber 2,842
Meeta Patel 2,707
Nathan Lucht 2,660

District 86 (four seats)

Nancy Pollak 8,091 26
Kevin Camden 7,863 25
Robin Gonzales 7,626 24
Keith Chval 7,541 24
Write-in 894 3

District 86 referendum

No 9,107 74
Yes 3,171 26

Mike Hemenway

(from left), Robin Gonzales, Keith Chval and Dave Chiappe check vote totals Tuesday night at Stats Bar and Grill in Willowbrook. Gonzales, Chval and their running mates, Nancy Pollak and Kevin Camden, were elected to serve on the Hinsdale High School District 86 Board. Sherry Rieff, who voted at The Community House Tuesday morning, was one of about 2,750 voters to head to the polls in Hinsdale. (Jim Slonoff totals)



NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission

6 p.m. Wednesday, April 12
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.

Hinsdale Park and Recreation Commission

7 p.m. Tuesday, April 11
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.

On the draft agenda: updates on pool concessions contract and pool green space options, village funding, summer meeting schedule

Hinsdale Plan Commission

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 12
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.

Four D86 candidates ready to start work

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"There's no question there are some things that absolutely need to be done and there are some that will be influenced by how the whole school population shakes out," Chval commented.

"I think the community in general needs to have some trust that the board, the administration is competent and they are good stewards of the taxpayers' money," he added. "There's no trust at this point."

Most people the candidates talked to during the campaign agree some type of referendum is needed, Gonzales said. But there were too many questions about this proposal.

Moving forward, the board will be able to rely somewhat on the ground work that already has been done, she said.

"In other ways, I think it's really important to start fresh and new and really engage the full community and make sure we're addressing their concerns and issues," she said. "Otherwise we'll continue to have the same problems without solutions."

The facilities issue must be addressed in conjunction with conversations about the buffer zone and enrollment imbalance, Camden said.

"None of them move independent of the other," he said. "Do I think it's going to go away? No. Do I think we can address any one individual issue? No."

"My hope is the community in the broadest sense stays involved and wants to move

in what's the best interest of the district," he added.

Pollak reiterated Tuesday night that she supports facilities the community can take pride in even though she had concerns about this ballot question.

"I think we need to go back and figure out why it didn't pass and listen to our community and we're coming back and we might be coming back bigger, but we're going to come back better," she said.

Superintendent Bruce Law said he is certain Hinsdale Central, where enrollment has been increasing incrementally for years, will continue to adapt.

"I'm confident we can make it work by having study hall in the auditorium, the gym, the cafeteria — wherever we can find space for kids," he said.

Space issues in the science department are the greatest concern, he said.

"Science has special facilities needs, and we know students at Hinsdale Central take far more science than the two credits required for graduation, which we want them to do," he said.

Law said he does not interpret the results to mean voters do not support the schools.

"I think people care very deeply about the schools and they want the schools to succeed and they're very proud of their schools," he said. "This just wasn't the referendum that allowed them to translate that support for schools into a yes vote."



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