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Winters tops Bronson for city mayor; Burow, Jones claim commission seats

NOVEMBER 3, 2009

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Newcomers took all three seats Tuesday night in the Great Falls city general election.



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Michael Winters, founder of the Montana Veterans Memorial, defeated Commissioner Bill Bronson in the mayor's race.

On the commissioners' side, auctioneer Fred Burow and retired police chief Robert Jones defeated incumbent John Rosenbaum and Donna Zook.

During the campaign, Burow and Zook had roundly criticized the City Commission for debts run up by the city's electric utility, and for raising property taxes on individual property owners by nearly 5 percent each year from 2003 to 2008.

Winters also had criticized city officials for the city's tight financial picture and for failing to involve citizens in energy decisions.

Bronson argued he was best suited to run city meetings and represent the city at ceremonial events, while Rosenbaum pointed to improvements made in Great Falls during his 14 years as commissioner.

Here are the preliminary unofficial vote totals:

MAYOR

MICHAEL WINTERS, 8,430 votes

BILL BRONSON, 5,759 votes

COMMISSIONER

FRED BUROW, 7,629 votes

ROBERT JONES, 7,256 votes

DONNA ZOOK, 6,805 votes

JOHN ROSENBAUM, 5,442 votes



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OleProspector wrote:

"Bronson tops Winters for mayor; Rosenbaum, Jones win seats" appears in the right hand column of the Tribune. Appears somebody at the Tribune guessed pretty wrong, as usual!

11/3/2009 10:30:56 PM

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athyra wrote:

All the candidates should be commended for stepping up for this oftentimes thankless job. Especially with all the grief our fellow commenters give them... :) Good luck especially to Mike. He looked a bit like a deer in the headlights on the news tonight, don'tcha think?

11/3/2009 10:23:15 PM

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tkavulla wrote:

Wow.... This is as forceful an anti-incumbent message as has been heard anywhere in the larger races in the nation today. A fantastic outcome, I think. Rosenbaum's place at dead last says it all. People are unhappy with the way the City has conducted itself, and things have got to change. Looking at the numbers, it seems Bronson & Rosenbaum failed to convince any new voters to come their way after the primary, while Burow & Winters managed to pick up tons of new voters and voters who cast their ballots for losing candidates in the primary.

11/3/2009 10:07:30 PM

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Brigand wrote:

Let's hope the rubber stamp leaves the building with the lame ducks.

11/3/2009 9:49:26 PM

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RedNeckHippy wrote:

Billy got his behind kicked REAL good! Too bad that Zook didn't win. Unbelievable that jones won. Unbelievable and sick. Simply proves that many morons in GF LIKE an authoritarian govt. Oh, and a corrupt guvt. too. Jones??? What the HELLo were they thinking?

11/3/2009 9:42:07 PM

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