

MESSAGE FROM CITY CLERK SUZANNE LECLERCQ
CITY OF WOODLAND PARK ELECTION OFFICIAL

By now I suspect you have seen the recent election results:

Ballots cast: 2,205.

Mayoral Election: Levy - 1,183; Carr - 1,007.

Council Election: Case - 1,201; LaBarre - 1,058; Schafer - 996; Sawyer - 994;

Maruszak - 982; Jones - 884.

Three Council Member seats are to be filled from the 2018 Election. However, the current circumstances prevent me from declaring three Council winners at this time. Here's why. State law enacted recently grants an extended time for receiving ballots from residents who may be serving overseas in our military or as missionaries, for example. We have 22 of those ballots still not received. They must be postmarked by the end of the election day, April 3, but the law gives an 8 day period beyond election day to receive those ballots. Newly enacted State legislation also gives the same 8 day period to resolve signature discrepancy issues. We have 12 ballots with signature discrepancies. Further, our municipal judge must survey the returns. That process adds 2 more days to the previously mentioned 8 day receipt period for overseas ballots and resolution of signature discrepancies.

As you can see, the race between Schafer (996), Sawyer (994), and Maruszak (982) is close enough that those 34 ballots (22 plus 12) could make a difference in the outcome. Declaring who will fill 2 of the 3 Council seats is clear; those would be filled by Case and LaBarre. Case in a practical sense will be filling the seat Matthews will vacate. The issue is whose seat will LaBarre fill? We don't know yet if Schafer or Sawyer will be staying or leaving. Nor do we know if Maruszak will be declared a winner.

The City Charter provides that each existing Council Member's term continues until his/her successor shall have been elected and duly seated. We look to State law to determine when a new Council Member is "elected and duly seated". Under State law an existing Council Member's term is not up until the election returns have been surveyed.

After consultation with our City Attorney and referencing our City Charter and State Statutes, the following approach will be used to make sure that the City complies with our Charter and State Statutes. The existing Council will remain

seated until the April 19 City Council meeting. We will delay the farewell of Matthews until April 19. The deadline for receiving the 22 overseas ballots and correcting the 12 with signature discrepancies is the end of the day, Wednesday, April 11. The deadline for surveying is the end of the day, Friday, April 13. I will administer the oath of office to all re-elected and newly elected Council members, as well as the Mayor, at the Thursday, April 19 Council meeting. If we receive the 22 ballots and get all 12 signature discrepancies verified before April 11, we will speed up the timeline accordingly.

If the results after Wednesday, April 11 are still very close, a recount may be necessary. This could result in the timeline being altered again.

I want to thank the community for your participation in the election.