

Tyler Morning Telegraph

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Tyler mayoral race heads to runoff

Nix and Hene tops in 4-candidate field

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Tyler mayoral candidates John Nix and Stuart Hene are headed to a runoff after unofficial results show no one candidate receiving 50% or more of the vote in the four-candidate race.



Stuart Hene

John Nix

Nix received 2,865 votes, or 32.43%, while Hene garnered 2,315 votes, or 26.20%. The two candidates will

face off in a runoff election on June 13 when Tyler voters will head to the polls again to determine who they want to see serve as their next mayor.

“What a night! On top with a staggering 1001 voters showing up today!” Nix wrote in a post on his campaign Facebook page, referring to the number of voters who turned out on Election Day as part of the

total 2,865 votes he received. “I am so thankful for everyone who came out and voted for the ThriveTyler plan to move our community forward.”

Hene thanked all the volunteers, voters and supporters of his campaign.

“Because of you, we’re headed to a runoff,” Hene wrote on his campaign Facebook page Saturday night. “This race is about

the future of Tyler. Strong jobs, new opportunities, and a community where families can grow. We’re not done yet. I’m grateful for the momentum and ask for your continued support as we work to earn every vote!”

There were two other locals in the race, including a former councilmember and

MAYOR >> PAGE 3A



ELECTIONS

Hawkins chooses new face for mayor

Kayla Ross defeated former Hawkins Mayor Susan Hubbard in the contest to be the town’s top elected official. Also inside, Winona incumbent Mayor Rachel Moreno secures another term. **Page 2A**



SPORTS

Legacy’s Brookshire headed to state golf

For the first time since 2009, Tyler Legacy High School - formerly Robert E. Lee High School - will send a girls golfer to the UIL State Golf Tournament. **Page 5A**

Today’s weather

Partly sunny and breezy. High of 81.

THREE-DAY FORECAST, PAGE 2A

What’s inside

Weather	2A
Opinion	4A
Sports	5-7A
Variety	8A
Comics	9A
Classifieds	10A

Bible verse

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

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Corrections

It is the policy of the Tyler Morning Telegraph to correct errors. Direct requests for corrections or clarifications to Managing Editor Santana Wood at (903) 237-7749.

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Critics of the \$167.3 million TJC bond proposal said it would’ve created a financial burden for residents, noting that many homeowners are already facing rising living costs and economic pressure. The bond proposition failed with 55% voting against it. (Jennifer Scott/Tyler Morning Telegraph)

Voters reject bond

Tyler Junior College’s \$167.3 million bond proposal fails

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Voters on Saturday rejected a \$167.3 million bond proposal for improvements to Tyler Junior College.

According to unofficial results, 55% of Smith County voters in the junior college’s taxing district opposed the bond. A total of 6,865 voted against the multimillion dollar proposal. Forty-five percent of voters, or 5,865 people, voted in favor of the proposal.

The bond proposed funding campus improvements, workforce training facility, and student-centered spaces.

For homeowners, the proposal would’ve brought an estimated increase of about \$7 per month, or \$84 annually, on a home valued at \$252,000.

Opponents of the bond previously raised concerns about the timing of the proposal, citing rising living costs and broader economic pressures. While the proposal would’ve authorized \$167.3 million in projects, the total repayment cost was estimated to be about \$320.7 million over 30 years



The bond proposed funding campus improvements, workforce training facility, and student-centered spaces. Texas community colleges don’t receive state funding for these types of projects. (Tyler Morning Telegraph File)

— a concern for those who opposed the bond. Of that total, \$167.3 million would go toward the principal while an estimated \$153.4 million would be repaid in interest. Some people felt the scope of the project was broad and would be better if it were done over time in smaller pieces.

“I think they should examine what they need and make a long-term plan ... not all of a sudden try to get everything,” Lindale resident and retiree Anthony Dugat said in a previous interview, “scale it back and do it in segments.”

Meanwhile, supporters felt the proposal would’ve

been an “investment” into local education and saved money over time.

“There is never a good time for a bond election,” former Tyler mayor Barbara Bass said in a previous interview with the Tyler Morning Telegraph. “The needs do not go away and only become more critical.

Nor does inflation go away. The price tag only gets worse, which costs us more in the long run. I’m willing to pay my part now rather than waiting two or three years when the costs will be higher.”

Since Texas community colleges don’t receive state funding for these types of projects, a voter-approved bond can help a school like TJC make major improvements. This latest bond measure, which failed, is the fifth one in TJC’s 100-year history. The most recent bond approved in 2012 funded new construction of the Nursing and Health Sciences facility.

The bond proposal was developed by a facilities planning committee made up of college representatives and community members. The committee identified three major projects to provide for TJC’s community partnerships, student learning environments, workforce preparation and the college’s technological and physical infrastructure. The selected areas were chosen, in part, because they impact the entire campus, college officials said.

Tyler ISD, Lindale ISD voters usher in school board newcomers

FROM STAFF REPORTS

There were two contested school board races in Smith County on Saturday.

TYLER ISD

Tyler ISD District 4 voters want to see a new face on the board of trustees, according to results in Saturday’s election.

Dr. Kendra Bircher received the most votes over



Dr. Kendra Bircher

the incumbent in Saturday’s election, leading her to become the next representative of the fourth district on the Tyler ISD Board of Trustees.

Bircher received 53%, or 556 votes, in Saturday’s

school election in Smith County. Current District 4 representative Cody Levrets received 47%, or 486 votes, according to unofficial results reported by the elections office.

Bircher, a former Tyler ISD student and educator, said in a previous interview with the Tyler Morning Telegraph that she wants to focus on the connection between student well-being

and academic success. Bircher has worked as a teacher, school counselor and Tyler ISD mental health lead counselor.

Once she steps into the role, Bircher said her priorities will include supporting both academic achievement and student well-being, strengthening family and community partnerships, and making data-informed decisions.



Andy Ford

Levrets was sworn in to the position in June 2023.

LINDALE ISD

Candidate Andy Ford received the most votes in the Lindale ISD Place 3 race

ISD >> PAGE 3A

