



The Gardner News

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Low voter turnout in Winchendon

Katie Landeck
News Staff Writer

WINCHENDON — Only 237 people came out to vote in the Winchendon town elections on Monday.

"Turnout was very low," said Town Clerk Judy Ruschioni.

The only race in the town election was for the Board of Health where Diane Cosentino, Jason Gauthier and Jason Moury competed for three seats. Ms. Cosentino and Mr. Moury ended up winning with 127 and 106 votes respectively, according to the clerk.

Mr. Gauthier received 101 votes.

"It was very, very close," said Ms. Ruschioni.

In an earlier interview, Ms. Cosentino, a 21-year Winchendon resident and registered nurse, said she has both a lot to offer to the board and a lot to learn from it. She said her focus would be on educating the public. Mr. Moury said he wanted to be a part of the board to help promote car seat safety and cardiovascular health among other things.

"I'm running primarily because I have a background in health," said Mr. Moury said previously. "Winchendon is in need of new faces to promote better health."

Elizabeth Hunt easily kept her seat on the Board of Selectmen. There were only 11 write-ins against her, two of which were for Raymond Rader, according to the clerk. She will serve for three years.

On the School Committee, both Michael Niles and Mike Barbaro retained their seats. They were running unopposed and will serve three year terms.

"I would like to thank the community for supporting me for four terms," said Mr. Barbaro. "We've done a lot of work in the schools and hope to continue."

Incumbent David Johnson will return to the Housing Authority for a five year term. Next Monday, May 12, the town will have its Annual Town Meeting as well as a Special Meeting. Their voters will make an initial decision on several debt exclusions and overrides including an \$300,000 override to supplement the school budget. If approved at the meeting, the override will have to be voted on again at the ballot. A date for the ballot question has not yet been set.

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