

Contested County Board seat goes to Grabow

Written by BILL SCHANEN IV
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In one of three contested races for Ozaukee County supervisor, a candidate who said he opposes a plan to renovate Lasata Care Center and thinks the county should unload its nursing home was defeated in Tuesday's election.

Robert Wardlow, a 50-year-old management consultant from the Town of Cedarburg, lost his bid for the District 9 seat on the County Board to Town of Grafton supervisor Tom Grabow.

Grabow, who garnered 127 votes to Wardlow's 89, will succeed Daniel Buntrock, who did not run for re-election.

The plan to spend millions of dollars on the county's aging nursing home gained attention in the election because it is likely to be one of the first significant issues decided by the new County Board, which will have five new members when winners of the election are sworn in later this month.

While Wardlow said he doesn't think the county should compete with private businesses in the senior living market, Grabow said he didn't know enough about the plan to renovate the nursing home to form an opinion. When asked in an interview if the county should maintain its senior living campus, Grabow said, "Yes, for right now."

Grabow, a town of Grafton supervisor for eight years, said the county needs to cut spending and change the way it negotiates road maintenance contracts with towns.

Other new board members elected Tuesday include David Larson, a City of Port Washington alderman who ran unopposed for Joe Dean's seat in District 8.

In District 14, Steven Scott Rishel of Grafton was elected after running unopposed for the seat being vacated by Jacob Curtis.

In District 17, Richard Dieffenbach of Cedarburg defeated Jim Konowalski, 280-142, in a race for the seat being vacated by longtime Supr. James Uselding.

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In District 21, former Supr. Bob Walerstein's bid to return to the board was stymied by Mequon resident Justin Strom, who won the race, 384-301. Strom will succeed Nancy Sharp Szatkowski.

In District 26, Jennifer Rothstein of Mequon, the only incumbent to face opposition, defeated Bruce Sipiora, 316-201.

Voter turnout in the county was 12.7%.

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