

Fiese squeaks by Christensen in race for seat on Gothenburg Airport Authority

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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Richard Fiese won a close race against Ken Christensen on election night for a seat on the Gothenburg Airport Authority.

Fiese received 15 more votes than Christensen, winning the race with 725.

Incumbent Ken Kline was re-elected with 1,199 votes as was Dave Collins who garnered 782.

The percentage of voters casting ballots in Dawson County was 58%, according to election coordinator Rosie Casanoba, compared to nearly 67% in the state.

Newcomer Jeremy Sitorius was the top vote getter for one of three seats on the Dist. 20 school board.

Sitorius received 1,322 votes to 1,279 for incumbent Lisa A. Geiken and 1,275 for incumbent Amber Burge.

Two seats on Gothenburg City Council were also uncontested.

Jeff Kennedy, who represents west ward, received 574 votes.

Candidate Duane Oliver, who filed to fill the seat now represented by outgoing council member Gary Fritch, garnered 640 votes to represent east ward.

Three Dawson County commissioners, with no opposition in the general election, were

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re-elected.

They were Dean Kugler of Gothenburg, 1,796; P.J. Jacobson of Cozad, 1,492; and Butch Hagan of Lexington, 672.

Dawson County voters agreed with the rest of the state in voting for four proposed amendments to Nebraska's constitution in the Nov. 6 election.

Nearly 85% gave resounding approval for impeachment for actions in pursuit of public office while close to 84% want a constitutional amendment that establishes the right to hunt and fish.

The county was against (nearly 65%) increasing term limits from two to three while almost 72% said "no" to raising the salary of state senators.

On election day, Casanoba said her office fielded many calls from volunteers who couldn't find the names of people wanting to vote in rosters.

"We had a lot of provisional ballots," she said about allowing people to register to vote even if their eligibility is not established on election day.

After the election, officials determine whether or not the ballot should be counted for reasons such as voter moved but didn't update his or her address.

Dawson County clerk and election commissioner Karla Zlatkovsky said 47 provisional ballots were issued.

Zlatkovsky noted that turnout was high compared to the 19% who voted in the May primary.

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Before the election, Casanoba said her office also issued more absentee ballots this year—1,435 compared to 1,078 in 2008.

Interestingly, she said a number of voters requested absentee ballots because of a mailed flyer they received from senatorial candidate Bob Kerrey who urged Nebraskans to vote early.