

city election by Robin Roy | Managing Editor

Elected-mayor drive defeated

Sarasota voters resoundingly rejected the strong-mayor referendum and ousted Vice Mayor Ken Shelin from office.

One issue was decided, but another will have to wait until next month for a final resolution.

City residents were asked to vote whether to have a mayor elected by the people and to choose two at-large commissioners.

The hotly debated elected-mayor referendum, which would have allowed voters to choose their mayor and increased the size of the City Commission from five to seven members, was defeated by a nearly two-to-one margin.

More than 4,400 voters cast their ballots

against the measure, while nearly 2,400 supported it. The most votes for the referendum, 302, came from Precinct 1, which runs roughly along the bayfront from 10th street to Golden Gate Point.

Precinct 49, which includes the Indian Beach, Sapphire Shores and Tahiti Park neighborhoods, carried the most votes in opposition, 666. (See chart below for complete precinct breakdown.)

Because no City Commission candidate garnered 50% of the vote, a runoff election will be held April 14 between the top three

vote getters, Terry Turner, Paul Caragiulo and Suzanne Atwell.

Turner received 41% of the vote. Caragiulo got 36%. Atwell had 31%.

Precinct 49 gave Turner 368 votes, the most of any precinct. He received just one vote in precinct 153, which is in North Sarasota between Myrtle Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

Caragiulo received his highest vote total in Precinct 1, 296 votes. His lowest total, 9 votes, came in Precinct 31, which includes the Amaryllis Park neighborhood in North

Sarasota.

Atwell's largest vote total, 262, came from Precinct 94, which is Atwell's neighborhood of Bird Key. Her support was lightest in Precinct 153. (See chart below for complete precinct breakdown.)

Current Vice Mayor Ken Shelin finished fourth and will not be re-elected. Shelin seemed to take the news in stride, shrugging his shoulders and saying with a smile, "That's politics."

Asked what he'll do now, Shelin said, "Look for a job, I guess."

ELECTED-MAYOR REFERENDUM

Precinct	Yes	No
1	302	286
3	58	92
5	63	175
10	29	47
11	181	274
13	196	289
14	145	270
18	55	97
24	60	170
31	40	118
37	97	200
41	66	169
49	199	467
70	95	253
75	8	61
76	31	74
77	25	52
94	157	321
100	41	138
103	43	91
110	70	151
119	24	22
136	42	61
146	62	73
147	240	321
148	53	124
153	11	10
Total	2393	4406

TOP THREE CANDIDATES

Precinct	Turner	Caragiulo	Atwell
1	174	296	207
3	46	51	43
5	127	64	52
10	38	17	22
11	146	202	92
13	215	189	144
14	172	192	106
18	68	45	52
24	92	79	76
31	31	9	31
37	108	91	112
41	114	75	58
49	368	199	205
70	149	116	111
75	34	15	22
76	40	17	27
77	29	26	22
94	234	172	262
100	75	40	84
103	56	44	47
110	111	67	60
119	16	12	21
136	29	48	28
146	43	63	48
147	243	247	150
148	66	52	53
153	1	1	11
Total	2825	2429	2146

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