

Election: Berkowitz, Short have commanding leads in District 5 and 1 races

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District 2 race appears to be headed for a runoff in November

Two Del Norte County Supervisor elections will not be headed for runoffs in November as incumbent Bob Berkowitz and newcomer Darrin Short appear to have garnered enough votes to secure the District 5 and District 1 seats, respectively, according to the unofficial results from Tuesday's State primary.

In the District 2 election, incumbent Lori Cowan was the top vote-getter and will be moving on to the Nov. 3 general election ballot. With 100 percent of the precincts reported, Cowan received 41.13 percent of the votes (436) and was followed by retired probation officer Valerie Starkey with 30 percent (318) and Crescent City Harbor Commissioner James Ramsey with 28.87 percent (306).

The District 2 election was the only one on the local ballot that had more than two candidates. In local races with more than two candidates, the top vote-getters move on, unless one of the three candidates receives more than 50 percent of the vote.

The Del Norte County Elections Office reported that 6,417 votes were cast bringing turnout to 42.18 percent. There are 15,213 registered voters in the county.

In the District 5 election, Berkowitz with 57.76 percent (778) defeated Del Norte Democratic Committee Chairman Kevin Hendrick, who received 42.24 percent (569).

Short, a Crescent City Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief and former Crescent City Councilor, received 61.60 percent of the votes (531) to secure the District 1 seat over Del Norte Ambulance general manager and Bicoastal Media host John Pritchett, who received 38.40 percent (331).

District 1 incumbent Roger Gitlin did not run for re-election.

In the first of four reports from the elections office released Tuesday night, Short and Berkowitz took early leads in their respective races.

Cowan led from the start in the District 2 race, but there was some jostling as the night went on between Starkey and Ramsey. Based on the first report, Ramsey received 224 votes to 208 for Starkey.

With two of the four precincts accounted for on the third report of the night, Ramsey still held a slim lead over Starkey for the second spot on the Nov. 3 ballot — 254-243. Starkey overtook Ramsey on the final report of the night.

In the presidential portion of the ballot, President Donald Trump and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders were the top vote-getters in Del Norte County for the Republican party and the Democratic party, respectively.

Trump received 95.96 percent of the votes (2,517). Sanders had 932 votes (36.11%) and was followed by former vice president Joe Biden with 640 (24.8%) and Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren with 304 (11.78%).

Based on unofficial results, Sanders won the California primary, followed by Biden and Michael Bloomberg, who announced Wednesday morning that he was dropping out of the race and throwing his support to Biden.

California was one of 14 states and American Samoa holding primaries Tuesday. It was a big day for Biden, who continues to surge after winning nine states including a sweep of the South.

Sanders won in Vermont, Utah and Colorado and was comfortably ahead in California.

With 99 percent of votes in, Proposition 13 lost 44 to 56 percent. It apparently won in only 10 of the state's 58 counties. Nearly 70 percent of Del Norte County voters were against Prop. 13.

The \$15 billion state proposal was the only proposition on the ballot. The measure would provide \$9 billion for renovations and new construction to K-12 districts on a matching funding basis and \$6 billion to underwrite higher education facilities: \$2 billion each for community colleges, California State University and the University of California.

