

County certifies primary election; Cowan and Starkey top two in District 2 race

April 4, 2020



The Del Norte County Elections office certified the March 3 primary and the District 2 Supervisor race and officially between incumbent Lori Cowan and challenger Valarie Starkey in the Nov. 3 general election.

According to County Clerk Alissia Northup, Cowan was the top vote-getter with 492 votes and Starkey beat out Crescent City Harbor board member James Ramsey by just nine votes, 371 to 362.

“It was so close,” Starkey told The Triplicate. “This is where you realize every vote does matter when an election comes down to that number.”

Starkey said she was thrilled with the results and feels it validates her decision to run to represent a community after recently returning from a 30-year absence working as a probation officer in Sonoma County.

Ramsey told The Triplicate all he could say is he didn’t get what he needed to win.

“I guess the Lord must have had something else he needed me to do,” Ramsey said. “But I look at it I didn’t really lose. Rather, I made a lot of friends.”

Cowan said she has been so busy with the county’s response to the COVID-19 coronavirus response, the primary result was the furthest thing from her mind.

“To me it doesn’t matter either way who won,” Cowan told the TriPLICATE. “I’ll run my campaign the same way as before for the last three years.”

Cowan said her priorities, once the county is past the current pandemic crisis, remain the Last Chance Grade, homelessness programs and supporting local nursing programs.

“In front of me right now, however, is the coronavirus, how it effects our community. I’ll worry about the election later,” Cowan said. “The important thing is all the helping hands in our community. That’s the true story of every neighbor helping neighbor, no one doing one big, great thing.”