

Democrats sweep county council Monroe county council

By Kurt Van der Dussen, Herald-Times Staff Writer

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Sophia Travis, left, and Sandy Newmann greet each other at the Democrat party. Travis was a Democratic candidate for Monroe County Council at-large and Newmann was a Democratic candidate for auditor. Staff photo by David Snodgrass

Democrats Sophia Travis, Michael Woods and Warren Henegar swept to victory of the three Monroe County Council-at-large races Tuesday.



Figures released by the Monroe County Clerk's office at about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday, Travis had 22,801, Woods had 22,313 and Henegar had 22,187. On the GOP side, the count was 21,146 for Andy Dodds; 20,697 for Leasa Farkas; and 20,428 for Randy May.

The sweep gives Democrats 4-3 control of the county council, reversing the current 5-2 Democratic margin.

The Democrats now have the prerogative of electing a new council president in January to replace Sue West, as well as replacing the council's current representative on the county plan commission. That's Republican Jeff Ellington, who lost his race for County Commissioner to incumbent Democrat Iris Kiesling.

"It's a lot better to be a solid third than a weak fourth," Henegar quipped from his Smithville home late Tuesday evening, while 6,500 absentee ballots still were to be counted. "But it's far too early to call it."

He said it was the toughest race he'd ever run because all six candidates were good, qualified candidates. But he said Travis deserved to lead the ticket.

"Sophia worked her a-- off and it showed," he said.

Travis laughed when she heard Henegar's comment. "From the beginning of the campaign I've lost 35 pounds," she replied.

Late Tuesday night, she wasn't yet ready to consider herself a winner. "It's exciting right now but I'm still very anxious to know the result of the absentees," she said.

"It ain't over until the fat lady sings," the professional musician added.

Woods said his first bid for elective office was neither harder nor easier than he'd expected.

"I knew it was going to take a lot of hard work," he said. "I knew it was going to take reaching out to the county, and not just IU students."

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Michael Woods is applauded by fellow Democrats as he talks about his apparent victory Tuesday night in the race for Monroe County Council. Staff photo by David Snodgress

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