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Democrat declared the winner in Morris Twp.

Provisional ballots tallied in race that pitted Caffrey of GOP against Goldberg

**BY MINHAJ HASSAN
DAILY RECORD**

MORRIS TWP. -- Ron Goldberg will become the second Democrat in two consecutive years to win a seat on the township committee.

In the wake of a race that was too close to call on Tuesday, 23 provisional ballots were counted at the Board of Elections office Thursday. Twenty-one were considered good. Two were disqualified because the voters didn't live in the township.

Of the 21 that counted, 11 were for Goldberg and 10 were for Republican candidate Dan Caffrey.

That means Goldberg had a net gain of one vote, giving him a 35-vote lead over Caffrey. In total Goldberg had 2,803 votes and Caffrey had 2,768 votes.

GOP concedes

John Sette, County Republican Committee chairman, who oversaw the vote count Thursday as a member of the board along with several other witnesses, shook hands with Goldberg, saying, "Just do a good job, that's all that counts." He said he doesn't anticipate any challenges from the township Republican Party.

A letter will be sent to the county clerk's office to certify the results.

Following the vote, Goldberg said the residents responded to his positive candidacy.

"I believe we won because Morris Township wants a balanced government, one that airs all the issues. That is what we promised," Goldberg said in a statement. "I ran as a neighbor and concerned citizen. I will continue to be a concerned citizen and everyone's neighbor as committeeman."

"We're pleased, Ron will do a good job for the community," said Manfred F. Ricciardelli, vice chairman of the Morris township Democratic Committee. "We're anxious to get Ron to work."

Note to victor

Caffrey, who was not present for the vote count, said in an e-mail to the Daily Record and to Goldberg, "It was a tough, hard-fought campaign on both sides and the voters have spoken."

In the e-mail, Caffrey also said that "Morris Township truly is at a crossroads, there was no decisive victor in this race. When you take office, please be responsive to all residents during your term of office. Residents choose to live in Morris Township because the quality of life is high and property taxes are low."

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