4 council seats on SD city ballot

548

Representatives to fill four San Diego City Council seats will be selected Tuesday in a citywide election, the result of a curious system in which candidates are selected by district in the primaries but everyone votes to pick the full council slate.

Half the council's eight seats are up for grabs. Vying for them are, in District Two, incumbent Marueen O'Conner and Lou Ridgeway; District Four, incumbent Leon Williams and Jesse Albritten; District Six, Tom Gade and Ray Lussa, and in District Eight, to serve South San Diego, appointed incumbent Jess Haro and John Flowers.

ALSO ON the ballot will be nine proposed charter amendments ranging from setting up a property tax to finance transportation for the handicapped to establishing a special tax levy for use in a paramedic services program (see related story).

A general obligation bond issue to expand the Charles C. Dail Community Concourse will also be included.

Haro, 39, was appointed to the council among 26 applicants nine months ago and is counting on his past record to win the Eighth District bid.

Flowers, a 34-year-old attorney, is challenging Haro on a platform of being more responsibe to constituent's wishes.

About 7,000 South San Diego voters (Otay Mesa, San Ysidro, Nestor and Palm City) are registered to vote in the city election.

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Thursday's Star-News gave in-depth coverage to the race between Haro and Flowers, the candidates who hope to represent South San Diego. Following is a brief wrap-up of the other council races:

District Two:

Maureen O'Conner, 29, is a native San Diegan elected to the council four years ago. Her concerns include protecting the environment and fairly distributing the tax burden caused by "indiscriminate development and population increases."

She supports regulated growth and, like all incumbent candidates, has won the support of Mayor Pete Wilson.

She supports moving San Diego's airport to Otay Mesa and opposes collective bargaining and the right to strike for public employes. She has endorsed the city's Affirmative Action hiring program and educational incentives for policemen.

Lou Ridgeway, O'Conner's challenger, says a bad economic climate is more threatening than growth in San Diego.

District Four:

Leon Williams, 52, was appointed to the council in 1969 and elected in 1971.

Williams supports controlled growth, relocation of Lindbergh Field to Otay Mesa, collective bargaining for public employes and fixed rail mass transit. He opposes binding arbitration and the right to strike and police crackdowns on massage parlors.

Jesse Albritten, 40, a tax consultant, opposes city policy of controlled growth, charging it has driven up the cost of housing.

The candidate favors retention of Lindbergh Field as the regiona airport and more crim investigation. In short he says, he advocate limited government limited spending anc limited taxes.

District Six:

Tom Gade, 43, an attorney and former civil engineer, acknowledges that the philosophical differences with his opponent are not really that great since both are "business oriented."

Gade believes the city needs a regional plan to accommodate growth and opposes city-subsidized housing projects. Instead, he favors giving developers reductions in park and other fees if they develop in the center city. He opposes binding arbitration for public employes and vows he wouldn't let San Diego become another tax-high Los Angeles or New York.

Ray Lussa, 31, says his record of community service makes him the better candidate.

A marketing director for Pacific Properties, Lussa favors a freer growth policy but wants to prevent hap-hazard development that could make the city's coast another Miami Beach.

He wants the airport to remain at Lindbergh Field and opposes binding arbitration and collective bargaining for public employes.

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Wilson's Team Wins In S.D.

348

SAN DIEGO (UPI) -- Three incumbent city councilmen who had Mayor Pete Wilson's endorsement and a newcomer amenable to him were elected in the city general election Tuesday.

The narrowest victory margin belonged to incumbent councilman Maureen O'Connor, who edged manufacturer's representative 67,517 to 63,762.

Incumbent Leon Williams polled 77,017 votes to defeat tax consultant Jesse Albritton, who got 49,288, and incumbent Jess Haro beat attorney John Flowers, 71,836 to 53,654.

In the race to fill resigning Councilman Bob Martinet's seat, attorney Tom Gade collected 64,380 votes to nudge civil engineer Ray Lussa, who got 62,370. Gade had Wilson's endorsement.

Wilson was re-elected in the September primary, in which he collected more than half the total votes cast for mayor. His victory was viewed as showing voter support for his controlled growth policies.

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