

# Sweating out the Capitola vote



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Candidate Ron Graves was the third-highest vote-getter, earning the final slot on Tuesday night.

## Harlan, Garcia and Graves win seats on the Capitola council

By DONNA KIMURA  
Sentinel staff writer

CAPITOLA — Three familiar faces were elected to the Capitola City Council on Tuesday.

Stephanie Harlan, Robert Garcia and Ron Graves were the top vote-getters to win seats on the five-member council.

Harlan and Garcia are former council members who sought a return to city politics, and incumbent Graves is a 24-year veteran of the board.

Together, they have served a total of 36 years in office in Capitola.

"I think people don't want to see changes," said Harlan, who led all candidates with 975 votes or 19.7 percent. She served from 1984 to 1992.

She became the city's first woman mayor in 1990.

Garcia had 947 votes, 19.1 percent, and Graves finished with 805, 16.3 percent, in

### Capitola council

6 of 6 precincts

Candidate	Votes	Pct
Stephanie Harlan	975	20
Robert Garcia	947	19
Ron Graves	805	16
Tony Bugge	675	14
Mary Vaage	559	11
Tim Robertson	551	11
Don A. Enos	392	8

the unofficial count.

The three veterans beat out four upstarts who promised to bring new life to the city's policy-making board.

Tony Bugge had 675 votes; Mary Vaage,

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559; Tim Robertson, 551; and Don A. Enos, 392.

Only 29.6 percent of the city's 6,488 registered voters cast ballots.

"I think what this means is that the majority of people in Capitola are pleased with how the city has been run over the years," said Garcia as he watched the votes being tallied at City Hall.

Garcia served one term on the council, beginning in 1978.

Graves, who was elected to his seventh term, was the only incumbent in the field.

The longest-standing councilman in city history, Graves helped shape the city's successful commercial district on 41st Avenue.

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# Capitola election

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In his next term, he said, he will work on opening a library in town and improving cable television service.

The three winners will be sworn into office Tuesday.

While Graves extends his record career, Harlan and Garcia will replace longtime councilmen Jerry Clarke and Bob Bucher, who did not seek re-election.

The crowded field made one of the most competitive races in recent history. The candidates spent more than \$20,000 in the campaign.

At the end of March, Robertson had raised the most money of all the candidates with \$4,500. Bugge was second in fund raising with \$3,877.

It still wasn't enough to get into office.

"Let's hope people elected have the skills to manage the assets," said Bugge, a tax accountant who called for the city to develop a long-range financial plan. "Easy money days are over. I hope the people elected get up to speed."

During the campaign, City Treasurer Glenn Hanna and others charged that city leaders did not provide enough oversight of funds.

"I think people may have gotten fed up with the publicity the city has received," Enos said after the ballots were counted.

Enos kept his smile even after learning that he didn't finish in the top three.

"It sure was fun," he said.

Enos, 38, said he would consider another run at politics.

"I might," he said. "I just might."

Vice Mayor Mick Routh agreed that the outcome was a show of support for the way the city has operated.

"I think basically what it says is that people in this town did not like divisive politics and like the way it's been run," he said.

Capitola is a city that is safe — two murders in the last 10 ten years. It has a vital shopping district that generates about \$3.7 million in sales taxes each year. The city beach was named one of the best in the Pacific Northwest.

In the end, voters of the small town elected the people they knew the best.

## First woman mayor of Capitola returns

CAPITOLA — The first woman mayor of Capitola is back.

Stephanie Harlan, 46, who did not seek re-election in 1992, charged back into office Tuesday.

She was the top vote-getter in the seven-candidate field.

"I think people remember me from my previous service," she said. "I worked hard for them and will work hard again."

Harlan served two terms on the City Council, beginning in 1984. In 1990, she became the city's first woman mayor.

Her election this year brings another touch of history to this seaside town.

She joins Margaret Fabrizio on the council — the first time two women will serve concurrently on the five-member board.

"I think that's wonderful," Harlan said. "It's a wonderful step in the history of Capitola."

Fabrizio, who was elected two years ago, said she looks forward to working with Harlan.

"I'm delighted to be serving with Stephanie," she said Tuesday night. "It will be a dynamic and creative council."

Mayor Ron Graves, re-elected Tuesday night, said, "I'm pleased to serve on a council with two women on it."

Known as a staunch Democrat and environmentalist, Harlan was a popular mayor who could be seen riding her bicycle through town.

She led the city in its stand against offshore oil-drilling along the Central Coast. She was also a major force in Capitola adopting a curbside recycling program.



Harlan

Donna Imura