

Controlled-growth advocates win in SV

□ For complete precinct-by-precinct results — **See page A5**

By LAURIE SLOTHOWER

Sentinel Staff Writer

SCOTTS VALLEY — Voters here elected two controlled-growth advocates and a three-time incumbent to the City Council in a stunning repudiation of the pro-growth direction the city has been going almost since its inception.

With 2,509 of the city's 4,504 voters, or 55.7 percent, casting ballots, Joe Miller and Roger Anderson, members of Citizens for Orderly Growth, came in first and

second place respectively, while incumbent Mayor Ray Carl got the nod for a third term on the council.

Seven persons were running for three open spots on the City Council.

Miller captured the largest block of votes with 20.8 percent, Anderson garnered 19.3 percent; and Carl got 14.6 percent.

The other candidates and percentages of the vote, in order of voting, were Colleen Carnohan, director of marketing for Seagate Technology, 12.8 percent; Planning Commission Chairman Hal Medo, 12.6 percent; engineer and controlled growth advocate George Malby, 9.4 percent; journalist Mary Sutherland, 6.8 percent; and incumbent council members Ed Lang, 1.8 percent, and Rey Retzlaff, 1.5 percent.

Retzlaff and Lang dropped out of the race weeks ago, but their names were still carried on the ballot.

As a result of the election, the political makeup of the Scotts Valley City Council changes from a 4-1 split whose majority favored continued growth to a 3-2 majority who want more limitations on development.

Miller and Anderson join Barbara Leichter, a CFOG member who was elected in 1982, as advocates of what they call better planning.

The new councilmen will serve four-year terms on the five-member City Council. They are expected to be seated the first Wednesday in July.

The results show residents' concerns over growth in a race which could have been called "the commuter's revenge."

It is the newer residents of the city, particularly those who work in Santa Clara County and live in Scotts Valley, who have been most dismayed at its accelerated industrial growth.

But Miller and Anderson led in nearly every precinct in the city. They took an early lead Tuesday evening in voting results and never relinquished it.

Miller and Anderson ran in either first, second or third place in the mobile home parks and swept the northside precincts, where they live.

Carl topped the field at Vista Del Lago Mobile Home Park. Miller led even in the absentee ballots, traditionally considered the most conservative votes in the city. Anderson and Carl had an equal number of absentee votes, according to preliminary figures.

Miller said he was not surprised by the results.

"We put out positive statements about our positions and we walked the majority of the community," said Miller, 42, an electronics consultant who works out of his home.

Miller and Anderson have been staunch advocates of the neighborhoods and have accused the current City Council of letting business and industry plan the city at the residents' expense.

He was in a conciliatory mood the morning after the election.

"I've been in the minority before," said the 61-year-old Realtor. "I'm sure it will all work out."

Carl noted that in 1978, he was the swing vote on a number of votes. "I told then all they might as well stay home, since I was deciding everything anyway."

Carl is considered one of the more moderate council members and occasionally sides with Leichter on the losing end of 3-2 votes.

He continued, "The most important thing is that we get going on the thing we've started: the Scotts Valley Drive Assessment District and the new City Hall. We're already on our way with the park. It'll all work out."

Carl had said at candidate forums that "No matter which two of those guys you elect, you still need me as the third on the City Council." Apparently, the voters agreed.

"The victory to me is a clear indication that the people of Scotts Valley want good planning," said Miller.

That the city has no freeway access, one congested road through the business district and "40 fast-food restaurants and more coming in" points to the opposite, Miller said.

Anderson added, "The residents' biggest fears are about how development affects their quality of life. The lack of planning comes up again and again."

Anderson's victory was considered the biggest upset of the campaign. The soft-spoken UCSC chemistry professor has lived in the city only three years, and his ties to the university and to a lawsuit COFG filed against the city's general plan had many people thinking he was too liberal for the traditionally conservative town.

The balloting also shows the importance of personal contact in a small-town campaign.

Miller and Anderson each had 60 volunteers working on their campaigns and made use of extensive precinct walking in the final days of the campaign.

Campaign worker Betty Peterson said she "called every single sure vote we had ... I was on the phone for nine hours. We were going to carry them down there to vote it we had to." The same personal contact proved a boost to incumbent Carl, who said he "worked very hard" to get re-elected to his third term on the council.

"I knew it was going to be tough this time," said the mayor, adding that in previous elections "I didn't work as hard."

Miller and Anderson watched the results from the basement of the County Government Center until about midnight, when they went to a victory party at Miller's northside home.

The atmosphere was considerably glummer at the Moose Lodge in Scotts Valley, where city administrators, the other candidates, and men and women wearing Republican Central Committee buttons watched results.

Even as late as 1:30 a.m. they refused to believe that CFOG could have pulled off an election victory. "Wait until all the precincts are counted," party-goers admonished. Carl said he hoped he could still emerge in first place.