

Canlis defeats Ruiz in DA race

By KELLY NIX

District Attorney

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF WRITER

The contentious race for district attorney came to an end last night when Kate Canlis edged out incumbent District Attorney Ron Ruiz.

The unofficial results put Canlis on top with 42,390 votes or 50.8 percent of the vote to Ruiz's 40,703 votes or 48.8 percent of the vote.

The results are unofficial as the absentee ballots and provisional ballots — totaling 16,000 — have yet to be counted.

On Wednesday morning, a tired but ecstatic Canlis spoke of her win.

"Well I'm really gratified, especially for all the people that worked hard for me," Canlis said. "We're tickled," she added.

As about 100 people gathered at the Canlis headquarters Tuesday night anxiously awaiting the outcome, the results slowly started to trickle in in Canlis' favor. Late last night Canlis had almost 51 percent to Ruiz's 49 percent.

Canlis cautioned against declaring absolute victory because of the absentee ballots not yet counted, but noted she was very strong in the initial counts and was confident that the remaining absentees would be in her favor.

Ruiz also warned of premature victory.

"Well, it's not final. We don't know until it's counted," said Ruiz.

Ruiz said that he is happy with the way his campaign was run and complimented his rival.

"We had a very good campaign

and had good supporters. Obviously, she ran a good campaign also."

Ruiz said the deciding factor may have been Canlis' decision to run TV ads a couple of weeks before election night. Ruiz believes he may have waited too late to run his TV advertisements, which began running over the weekend. The decision was primarily a financial one, Ruiz said.

Canlis said the win didn't necessarily come unexpectedly and said she was very satisfied with the way her campaign was run throughout the year.

"If you would have asked me a year ago I would have been surprised. I came in first in the primary and got really good results when we phone banked and when we

See CANLIS, page 10



Tarmo Hannula/Register-Pajaronian

Kate Canlis (center) gets plenty of congratulations Tuesday evening at her campaign headquarters in Live Oak as votes start to roll in in her favor.

CANLIS

From page 1

walked."

In the March primary, Canlis received 43.4 percent of the vote to Ruiz's 42.4 percent.

Throughout the year, the DA's race was seen as the most heated and most publicized of all the races. Canlis, who previously worked under former District Attorney Art Danner as chief deputy district attorney, criticized Ruiz — a former defense attorney — for his lack of experience.

Canlis said she thought that Ruiz's negative campaign may have worked against him.

"I don't think it helped him. I think people look at temperament when voting for a prosecutor," said Canlis.

Canlis said her prosecutor experience and tough stance on crime made her qualified for district attorney. Ruiz contended that he was also tough on crime and had the endorsement of several county police chiefs.

Canlis said the money spent on her campaign was done very carefully.

"We put money into voter contact," said Canlis.

Canlis spent about \$90,000 towards her campaign to Ruiz's \$206,000.