

Gov. + Politics

Central 5/11/83

# Watsonville voters elect Soldo mayor

**WATSONVILLE** — Voters here Tuesday elevated retired school administrator Ann Soldo from the City Council to mayor.

Voters also returned Vido Deretich and Betty Murphy to the City Council with former Watsonville Police deputy chief Ray Ingersoll.

Soldo, who was elected to the City Council in 1979, topped a field of four in the mayor's race. The 62-year-old Soldo collected 44 percent of the vote to easily defeat fellow Councilman Rex Clark, 29 percent; restaurant/bar owner Jeff Hansen, 22 percent; and another retired school administrator, Les Oakes, 3 percent.

Vote totals were as follows: Soldo, 1,754; Clark, 1,152; Hansen, 866; and Oakes, 141.

It was an all-or-nothing race for Soldo, for her council term expired with Tuesday's election. Clark retains his seat with two years remaining in his term.

The mayor's seat came up for grabs when longtime mayor Bill Johnston announced he would not seek another term. He was first elected mayor in 1971 and won new terms in 1975 and 79.

Soldo's seat on the council was one of the three vacancies voters filled in Tuesday's balloting.

Deretich, 49, and Murphy, 60, finished in a virtual dead heat with 2,637 and 2,616, respectively — both 24 percent of the vote. Both finished within 32 votes of each other in 1979 when both were elected to their first terms on the council. Soldo was top vote-getter in that 1979 election.

Ingersoll finished third in the

balloting Tuesday with 1,927 votes, or 18 percent. Unsuccessful candidates included Peter Kovacich, a cafe operator, 1,803 (16 percent); Dolores Cruz Gomez, medical clinic director, 845 (7 percent); and Darrell Clark, a strawberry grower/shipper, 832 (7 percent).

Voters also overwhelmingly rejected a charter amendment which would have allowed the city to drop the formal bidding process for purchases and jobs of under \$20,000. The vote was 2,607 no; 982 yes.

Voter turnout was 50 percent.

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## The Weather

The National Weather Services forecasts fair nights and sunny days through Thursday. A small craft advisory over the bay is still in effect. High temperatures will be in the low 70s and low temperatures in the high 40s.

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