

# Bosiger defeats Boyer in Campbell County court clerk race

Following the most hotly contested local race in Central Virginia, interim Campbell County Clerk of Courts Sheila Bosiger came out ahead of three other contenders Tuesday night.

Bosiger fills the unexpired term of former clerk Deborah Hughes, who retired in July. She will hold the office until 2015.

"Thank God," she said Tuesday night. "I feel blessed and I feel humbled and I feel honored by all of my supporters."

According to unofficial results posted Tuesday night by the State Board of Elections, she won with 10,062 votes, more than half of those cast. Rick Boyer, the Republican candidate, finished with 6,074 votes or 33 percent; Penny Wallace with 1,122 votes or 6 percent and Tonda Davis with 914 votes or 5 percent.

The race heated up early as Republicans split their endorsements. The county's elected constitutional officers, elected Republicans, and five of the seven county supervisors endorsed Bosiger.

Boyer won the county party's endorsement and that of state-level Republicans, including Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, former 5<sup>th</sup> District Rep. Virgil Goode, Del. Kathy Byron, R-Campbell County, and Sen. Steve Newman, R-Lynchburg.

Bosiger sought the nomination, but later said her interests were better served by running as an independent.

Boyer campaigned on his previous experience as a county supervisor and his legal knowledge as a recent graduate of the Liberty University School of Law and as a newly minted attorney. He campaigned heavily on making office services, forms and records available online.

Tuesday night he said his short-term plans were to enjoy his recent law-school graduation and swearing-in ceremony before the Supreme Court of Virginia today, then give his family some much-wanted attention.

He said voters would likely see him again in the future and that he was disappointed he couldn't produce better results for his supporters.

Bosiger, 46, has more than 25 years' experience working in the clerk's offices in Lynchburg and Campbell County. When Hughes retired, she was named interim clerk by law as the most senior clerk in the office.

She campaigned on that experience and on the idea of keeping the office staff together as a team that has cross-trained on each other's' duties in order to continue to be productive while state and local budgets made it impossible to fully staff the office.

"I think this happened for a reason," she said of the campaign. "It brought me out to a lot of good people. It brought a lot of good people out to me. It will make me appreciate my job that much more now that I see what constitutional officers have to endure in a race. I'm just happy (voters) saw me as the best candidate."

The campaigns of Davis, office manager at Brown Machine Works, and Wallace, 45, a substitute teacher, didn't generate the same level of interest and public debate.

Wallace campaigned mainly on improving the level of customer service and promised to give back part of her salary to help improve customer service technology. Davis' campaign was similar to Boyer's in its emphasis on using the Internet to improve service and reduce office costs.

"I'm going to go back to life as it was before all this craziness," Davis said. "It's been a very pleasant experience. It's just exhausting."

Wallace could not be reached for comment.

Clerks are usually elected to eight-year terms. The job pays \$108,654 in Campbell County and comes with more than 800 duties spelled out in the Code of Virginia, mostly administrative functions such as keeping up with the business of the court, issuing marriage licenses and recording documents.