

ELECTION RESULTS

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State Auditor		Associate Circuit Judge		Presiding Commissioner		Prop. A	Prop. B
50.9%	45.4%	48.03%	51.85%	50.25%	44.33%	68.4%	51.6%
Tom Schweich (R)	Susan Montee (D)	Josh Meyer (IND)	Kristie J. Swaim (D)	STANLEY PICKENS (R)	HARLEY HARRELSON (D)	PASS	PASS

TURNOUT | Precinct 7 voters voted opposite the outcome of nearly every race in Adair

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 candidates, differed from the overall voting results of Adair County in every contested race but one. The race for Associate Circuit Judge elected incumbent Kristie J. Swaim, the only Democrat to win a contested race in Adair County, with 62.22 percent in precinct 7 and 51.85 in Adair County at-large. Precinct 7 also voted opposite the final results of Adair County on both Propositions A and B.
 Senior Trish Speers cast her vote Tuesday in the SUB in a party-line fashion. She said students might not think their midterm election vote matters, and worried what would happen if everyone didn't consider their own vote important.
 "You don't really know if your vote makes a difference or not, but maybe that's not really the point of one person voting," Speers said. "It's more of a collective effort. If nobody does, then nobody can make a difference."
 Speers said the low turnout

was disappointing. Apathy or uncertainty about the process might have led to low student participation.
 She said perhaps it was more of an informational issue rather than one of laziness.
 "Encourage some kind of forum, but talk about what the issues are," Speers said. "Not even whether we're for or against them, but what are, so people know what they've voting for."
 Senior Janée Johnson, president of College Democrats, said her organization worked for weeks in advance to register voters and send them to the polls Tuesday. Johnson described student interest as "Somewhat apathetic."
 "It's due to some sort of a disenchantment or disengagement with students for this year's election," Johnson said. "I didn't think it was going to be like 2008, where everybody was really energized about President Obama and all the stuff that he had promised to do, but I honestly didn't expect for turnout to be this low."

However, she said College Democrats had registered more than 100 people to vote.
 "I don't see why someone wouldn't want to fill out and exercise that right they have to vote," Johnson said.
 She said one problem is that many students, especially those voting in Precinct 7, don't identify Kirksville as their home, even though most students spend the majority of the year here.
 "You're here way more than you are at home," Johnson said. "And so the things that are getting voted on for Adair County and Kirksville are going to affect you way more than anything that you could vote on at your home."
 Junior Vinciane Ngoms, president of College Republicans, said the lack of student interest was "upsetting."
 Ngoms said student turnout might have been low because of the lack of elections for prominent positions, such as governor or president. Missouri did not receive a lot of coverage on the national scene this election cycle.

Those who did want to vote, she said, made sure they voted. But some students might have decided to abstain from voting in Adair County because they will be graduating or leaving, and the decisions made by local politicians won't affect them.
 College Republicans also worked tables sponsoring student registration. Ngoms said it registered 10 voters. The biggest goal was to get students to vote — regardless of political party.
 She said College Republicans experienced complaints from students of all political perspectives but that many people don't actually do anything about their complaints — they don't vote.
 The Democratic leaning in Precinct 7, Ngoms said, shows a shortage of loud, conservative voices on campus — a political position she said requires courage.
 "I feel like every day when I step on campus, I'm setting myself up for critics or whatever it is, maybe because I'm wearing a College Republicans shirt," Ngoms said.

ELECTION | Election results in Adair County echoed those throughout the nation

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 Republican candidate.
 "I think that people this year voted against the way things are, and they blamed Democrats for that," history professor Jerry Hirsch said. "It's not that the opponents are particularly attractive. It is just that people dislike the way things are."
 Democrats, even in non-federal races, were at a disadvantage this midterm election because of their association with an unpopular federal government.
 "If you had a 'D' behind your name, I think that was a bad brand this year," presiding Circuit Judge Russell Steele said. "It was just an anti-Democrat year. I think that national decisions have trickled down to even this local level."
 Steele said he was surprised at the outcome of the District 2 race because he thinks McClanahan represented the District well during her four years in office.
 Kirksville attorney Benjamin Grey said the change in leadership might be due to people wanting answers and simply voting for candidates who promise things that people want to hear.
 McClanahan worked as a representative for almost four years while Wyatt is new to the political scene.
 "We are surprised by the results," English professor Monica Barron said. "I am 53 years old, and I get out of bed and think that experience matters. Then I get evidence to the contrary and it makes me mad."

Election quotables:

“I can't say that enough, how great it is to have worked this hard and to have come this far and to get to have a success like this.”
 -Zachary Wyatt, District 2 Representative-Elect

“I am surprised, but not shocked. We had known that this was a unique environment during this election cycle and I believe that the opposition has exploited that environment. They have run a campaign on federal issues, and those are not what we deal with here in Missouri. Those are not the issues I have been wrestling with.”
 -Rebecca McClanahan, District 2 Representative

“If you had a 'D' behind your name, I think that was a bad brand this year. It was just an anti-Democrat year. I think that the national decisions have trickled down to even this local level.”
 -Russell Steele, Presiding Circuit Judge for the Second Judicial Circuit

“I will do what I have always done which is volunteer my time to help Republican candidates across this area.”
 -Ashley Young, Wyatt's Campaign Manager

Task force attempts to avoid faculty layoffs

BY DAN WARNER
 Assistant News Editor

The 16-to-1 Task Force currently is developing criteria from which to determine the necessary distribution of faculty members throughout the University.
 The University is offering early retirement packages for the second year in a row, including an option for a "phase-out" plan through which a faculty member continues to work

half-time after they accept the package. President Troy Paino said the goal is to eliminate positions through natural comings and goings of faculty members, thus avoiding layoffs.
 Paino said the members of the task force currently are trying to determine target sizes for faculty on a departmental basis. The task force is hoping to complete guidelines by the end of the semester.
 Terry Olson, chair of the economics Department

and co-chair of the 16-to-1 Task Force, said the Task Force is trying to generate a more quantitative way of comparing faculty positions so that it will be clear why recommendations are made and that they be made as fairly as possible.
 Olson said the potential criteria being considered in preliminary discussions includes whether a course is writing-intensive, has labs or studios outside of the classroom, what technology

is used in the course, internships, how many advisees a faculty member has, accreditation, class size, summer teaching, expanding classes and extraordinary contributions in the area of service and scholarship.
 He said a sub-committee of the task force is now working to flesh out and further define these criteria.
 Olson said it is necessary to gain some sort of acceptance campus-wide by making the criteria and process transparent and objective.
 "People may agree, they may disagree with the final outcome as to where the faculty lines that will be lost are lost, but the more explicit you can make what your criteria was, [the more acceptance there will be]," he said.

Olson said that during the next few years the University will try to reach the 16-to-1 goal. However, it is possible that some faculty members will have to make adjustments. Olson said the intention remains to not close any tenured positions.
 Richard Coughlin, provost and vice president of academic affairs and co-chair of the 16-to-1 Task Force, said the current faculty-to-student ratio is a little less than 15-to-1. Based on the 16-to-1 target ratio, the University should have approximately 320 faculty members and it currently has approximately 345 faculty members, Coughlin said.
 Coughlin said that, barring an unexpected financial calamity, he doubts

there will be a need to lay off faculty members. He said the University hopes to achieve its goal of a 16-to-1 ratio through normal attrition during the next two years, meaning through retirements and faculty members leaving their positions for other reasons.
 "It's just a natural change that occurs when you have 350 people," Coughlin said. "At first it might not happen exactly in the school that it needs to happen, but over time it will."
 Coughlin said that once recommendations are made to the president, the task force does not have a role in deciding which positions should be closed.
 "The task force's job is not to get into individual positions of people or anything like that," Coughlin said. "That's really going to be dealt with at the level of the deans and the provost ... and department chairs."
 Coughlin said 12 faculty members accepted offers of early retirement last school year and that it has not yet been decided whether those positions will be filled. He said most of those who accepted early retirement plans opted for a "phase-out" plan, where the faculty member continues to work half-time during the next three years. He said early retirement is being offered again this year and the plans were approved at the Board of Governors meeting in October.
 Coughlin said the task force meets every Tuesday and is charged with mak-

ing its recommendation to the president regarding the appropriate distribution of faculty positions by Dec. 15.
 Paino said 45 non-faculty positions have been eliminated in approximately the past year — not through layoffs but mostly by closing positions left open by departing staff members.
 Paino said four full-time non faculty employee positions and one part-time position that are currently filled will be closed at the end of this school year. He said he notified the staff members in those positions in advance, in the hope they might find employment elsewhere.
 He said of four of those staff members, one already has found employment elsewhere within the University and another has found employment outside of the school.
 "We still have about eight months to hopefully work it out for the other two, which was the intention," Paino said. "The reason why we went out with this news as early as we did because we really want to do everything possible to help those employees find other positions, preferably at the University, but if not it also gives them plenty of time to look elsewhere."
 Paino created the 16-to-1 Task Force at the beginning of this semester. The task force, which began meeting in late September, is made up of the deans of the five schools, six faculty members, dean of the graduate school and the provost.



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