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OLDHAM MAGISTRATE

Church captures office on his own
Republican has no foe in the fall

By Andrea Uhde

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Oldham County Magistrate Steve Church won the approval of Republican voters in the Goshen area yesterday, defeating home remodeler and political newcomer Steve Ormerod for the District 1 Fiscal Court seat.



Unofficial results showed Church with 623 votes and Ormerod with 241.

No Democrats filed for the seat. Church will not have to run in the Nov. 6 general election unless a write-in candidate files.

"It was a learning experience, and I'm really happy with the outcome," Church said while celebrating at his home. "Steve Ormerod is a class act."

Gov. Ernie Fletcher appointed Church to the seat in January after Paula Gish resigned to become deputy judge-executive.

Before joining Fiscal Court, Church had no political experience.

"Now that I've won the election, that's going to help me feel like I won it legitimately," he said. "Not that the appointment wasn't legitimate."

The unofficial results weren't available until 9:45 p.m., almost four hours after the polls closed. There are 5,437 registered voters in the district, which includes Goshen and part of Prospect.

Equipment problems have delayed Oldham election results three times in the past four years. This year, County Clerk Julie Lentz said officials tried a new system to get results more quickly.

She said combining results from two different types of voting machines has been difficult, so the decision was made to plug in the totals on a spreadsheet and have workers triple-check them.

"We anticipated it to be a little faster," Lentz said. "I wish we could have had the results at 8 o'clock like I thought I was going to. It's a lesson learned. The next election won't be like that."

Lentz said they hope after the general election to receive federal funds to buy equipment that is more compatible with the current machines.

Ormerod, 53, conceded the race before the unofficial tallies were in after seeing results posted at three of the four precincts. He said he thinks Church will "do a good job."

"I made him look," Ormerod said of the campaign. "He kind of stepped up his efforts there, and I think it'll make a better public servant out of him having someone contesting him."

Church, 40, a Prospect-area resident for more than 30 years, works at Logan Lavelle Hunt Insurance/Winston & Co. in Louisville.

He is a graduate of Ballard High School in Louisville and studied corporate communications at Western Kentucky University. He also is on an advisory board of the Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club.

Church is chairman of the Fiscal Court finance committee and serves on the environmental and human resource committees.

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