

## Two incumbents, ex-Councilman win seats in Arcadia, while Mosca, two challengers win in Sierra Madre election

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Election 2010

Election Special Section

Two incumbents and a former councilman won the three open seats on Arcadia's City Council on Tuesday, while an incumbent and two challengers garnered seats in Sierra Madre, according to semi-official election results.

Arcadia Councilmen Bob Harbicht and Peter Amundson held onto their seats, while former City Councilman Mickey Segal, who will be serving a third term on the council, has also won a seat.

Harbicht, Segal and Mayor Pro-Tem Peter Amundson defeated Businessman Sho Tay, Attorney Paul Cheng and Attorney Jason Lee in the council race for three seats.

"I think people are pretty happy with the way the city is being run," said Harbicht, the top

vote-getter, who will be serving his fifth term on the Arcadia City Council. "That was the whole crux of my campaign. If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Segal, an accountant who garnered the second highest number of votes, said he expected Arcadia's budget to be the biggest challenge for the city in the next few years.

"I'm very happy that the citizens of Arcadia believe that I can provide some level of expertise in financial matters," Segal said.

Mayor Pro-Tem Peter Amundson, a businessman, said he considered it "an honor and a privilege" to serve his hometown for a second term.

Arcadia will have to control its expenses, look for ways to generate revenue without raising taxes and support local businesses, Amundson said. In addition, it should tap into the advent of the Gold Line light rail to help revitalize its "stagnant" downtown, he said.

Attorney Paul Cheng, a first-time challenger who raised more than \$110,000 in campaign contributions, came in fifth place behind Tay.

"I'm disappointed, but the key now is for Arcadia to support our elected officials and to make Arcadia a better place," said Cheng, a former deputy City Attorney of Hesperia.

Mayor John Wuo will be leaving the council after

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serving two consecutive terms, as required. The election winners will be sworn in during Tuesday night's City Council meeting.

Overall voter turnout was about 26 percent, compared to 16 percent in the 2008 general city election, said Chief Deputy City Clerk Lisa Mussenden.

In Sierra Madre, incumbent Joe Mosca, an attorney for the Southern California Gas Co., and challengers Josh Moran, a 39-year-old account executive, and Nancy Walsh, a retiree, won the race for three open City Council seats, according to unofficial election totals on the city's Web site.

Councilman Mosca, the highest vote-getter, said he looked forward to discussing ideas with his colleagues in a civil manner to address upcoming challenges.

"Though we have a balanced budget, revenues are flat," he said. The council will need to determine "how we will finance our community tomorrow and the day after that."

Moran, a first time challenger, said he found it "very satisfying" that Sierra Madre "wants a return to civility and respectful discourse on the City Council."

Walsh, a city commissioner and a retired L.A. County Health Department manager, said she looked forward to some creative planning to develop a vision for Sierra Madre.

"We can decide what businesses we're going to invite in and what will work that fits into our small-town charm," she said.

The winning candidates beat out Councilman Don Watts, an architect, John Crawford, an entertainment industry executive, Pat Alcorn, a retired social worker, and retiree Bill Tice.

"The people have spoken, and we'll just go forward from there," Watts said. "I'm not disappointed, but it will take the city into an entirely different direction. The council I was on is slow growth. The new council will be pro-development."

Voters also overwhelmingly approved Measure ED, which limits Sierra Madre's power of eminent domain.

The measure, which was submitted by the City Council, prohibits the city from exercising, facilitating or funding the power of eminent domain for private purposes without a property owner's consent.

About 120 provisional and vote-by-mail ballots still had to be counted as of Wednesday, but the reported election results were not expected to change, said City Clerk Nancy Shollenberger.

Voter turnout in Sierra Madre was about 27 percent, while the average turnout for general city elections are about 23 percent, she said.

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The new Council members will be sworn in at the next regular meeting on April 27.

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