

# Daily Pilot

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2020 /// Now including Coastline Pilot and Huntington Beach Independent /// dailypilot.com

## ELECTION 2020

### Tito Ortiz, Dan Kalmick, Natalie Moser appear headed to the Huntington Beach City Council

BY MATT SZABO

The "Huntington Beach Bad Boy" appears to have earned a spot on the dais.

Tito Ortiz, a former mixed martial arts star who had that nickname in his fighting career, was one of three elected to the Huntington Beach City Council on Election Day.

Ortiz, a lifelong resident of Huntington Beach who ran as a conservative, is joined by Democrats Dan Kalmick and Natalie Moser as the three candidates who Surf City voters have chosen for three vacant spots on the City Council.

Ortiz, who ran with the slogan "Make Huntington Beach Safe Again," was well out in front among the 15 candidates, with 35,485 votes as of an update at 5 p.m. Wednesday. That's 14.30% of the vote.

Ortiz, who did not return messages seeking comment Wednesday, said Monday night that he was "going to win, 100%." He backed it up.

"This is not just going in just to fight to make money or fight for my name," said Ortiz, 45, of run-



Raul Roa | Staff Photographer

**TITO ORTIZ**, shown speaking at a rally at the Huntington Beach Pier on Oct. 24, looks like he will be elected to the Huntington Beach City Council.

See **H.B.**, page A2



Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**COSTA MESA** Mayor Katrina Foley — who became the city's first elected mayor in 2018 — will retain her seat after earning 53.15% of the vote.

### Katrina Foley earns second term as Costa Mesa mayor

BY SARA CARDINE

With only a few more ballots left to count, Orange County Registrar of Voters figures on Wednesday indicated winners in several Costa Mesa contests, including four open City Council seats and a measure to legalize retail marijuana sales and delivery.

Costa Mesa Mayor Katrina Foley — who became the city's first elected mayor in 2018 — will retain her seat after earning 53.15% of the vote with 21,771 ballots cast in her favor. Councilwoman

Sandy Genis followed at 22.75% with 9,317 votes.

Foley said Wednesday she stayed up until midnight in a virtual celebration on Zoom watching the results come in alongside other candidates and campaign volunteers.

"It was a really fun event, and it was the best we could do without getting together in person," she said Wednesday. "We had some diehard supporters stay with us on the Zoom right until the end—there was great energy."

Wendy Leece, a former council

#### ON THE WEB

Check [dailypilot.com](http://dailypilot.com) for continuing election coverage and results.

member and Newport-Mesa Unified School District trustee, came in third in the mayoral race, earning 11.25% of the votes with 4,607 ballots. Personal trainer and busi-

See **Mayor**, page A3

### Glenn Grandis in command of council race in F.V.

BY BRADLEY ZINT

Two newcomers to the Fountain Valley City Council held their leads Wednesday night as the Orange County Registrar of Voters continued to tally ballots.

Glenn Grandis, chief financial officer of the Fountain Valley Community Foundation, held a commanding lead within the pack of seven candidates, garnering 9,356 votes as of 5 p.m.

Coming in second, with 7,895 votes, was Ted Bui, a small businessman.

Closely following behind was Mayor Cheryl Brothers, a veteran of the dais, with 7,571 votes.

The results were based on all precincts reporting, but the registrar still had an estimated 202,166 ballots left to count from throughout the county.

"I'm cautiously optimistic, but very optimistic," Grandis said Wednesday of the results.

"I received so much support from so many people I didn't know. They stepped up, helped deliver fliers, made phone calls, did texting on my behalf."

If elected, Grandis, a 40-year resident and alumnus of Fountain Valley High School, said he wishes

See **Grandis**, page A4

### Brad Avery and Noah Blom maintain leads in their respective Newport Beach City Council races

BY LILLY NGUYEN

With 202,166 votes left to count in Orange County the day after Election Day, Newport Beach City Council candidates Brad Avery and Noah Blom maintained their leads over opponents Nancy Scarbrough and Jeff Herdman on Wednesday evening.

In Newport Beach, council members represent districts but are voted for by the entire city. Seats up for election are in District 2, which includes Newport Heights/Cliffhaven and West Newport; District 5, which encompasses Balboa Island; and District 7, which represents Newport Coast. The last of the three races in District 7 is uncontested, with Mayor Will O'Neill securing 100% of the votes counted.

O'Neill said he likely joined



**BRAD AVERY**, left, and Noah Blom are ahead in their respective districts.

many others refreshing the O.C. Registrar's website once it hit 8 p.m. Tuesday night, adding that the first races he looked at were of the city's, before he turned his



File Photos

attention to the 48th Representative District, the 37th Senate District and the 74th Assembly District until about 1:30 a.m.

"Without parties to attend, this

was a more mellow approach to cap election season," O'Neill said.

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, Avery, the incumbent in District 2, is currently leading with 25,241 votes, or 59.94%. He's ahead of Nancy Scarbrough, who currently has 16,868 votes, reflecting 40.06%.

Avery said he was thankful and happy about the results of the election to date, adding that he looked forward to serving the citizens of Newport Beach for another four years.

He said he was looking forward to helping the city recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, especially businesses, and ensuring that services continue to be offered to residents.

"It's pretty simple stuff — I

See **Newport**, page A2

### Whalen, Weiss stay ahead in Laguna City Council race

BY ANDREW TURNER

Local election results, much like the presidential race, remained too close to call the morning after the election.

In Laguna Beach, the leading candidates in the race for two contested seats on the Laguna Beach City Council eagerly awaited an update in the reporting from the polls on Wednesday evening.

The new drop of votes that came at 5 p.m. barely moved the needle, with a total of 88 votes cast for the five candidates in the race.

As the votes counted continued to trickle in, Mayor Bob Whalen led the group as he seeks a third term on the dais.

Whalen, who was first elected

to the council in 2012, expressed tempered optimism about his chances going into Tuesday evening. On Wednesday afternoon, Whalen indicated that he was confident after seeing the early return of results.

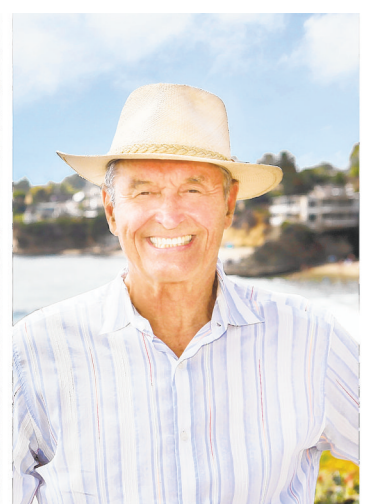
"Historically, the election night results have held up, at least here in Laguna in the elections that I have been involved in," said Whalen, who added that he was one of many Laguna Beach voters to submit their ballot early. "I am pretty comfortable that they'll prove out."

Close to two thirds of Laguna Beach voters returned their vote-by-mail ballot, according to data provided by the Orange County Registrar of Voters.

See **Laguna**, page A4



**MAYOR BOB WHALEN**, left, and George Weiss are the leaders for the two open seats on the Laguna Beach City Council.



File Photos



# MAYOR

Continued from page A1

ness owner Quentin "Q" Pullen ranked fourth with 9.76% and 3,998 votes, followed by Al Melone with 3.1% and 1,269 ballots cast.

Costa Mesa's First Council District race saw a close contest as Mayor Pro Tem John Stephens squared off against challenger Don Harper.

Early results showed the incumbent leading, but by Wednesday Harper had earned 3,723 votes (42.74%) compared to Stephens' 3,635 (41.73%).

A business owner with corporate finance experience, Harper said he ran because he felt the current City Council wasn't representing the interests of community members who value fiscal responsibility, basic public services and slow growth.

"We just want a safe, clean, well-maintained city to raise our families in," he said.

"[The current council is] cutting infrastructure and maintenance — you're going to start seeing our parks and roads, these basic services, decline."

After initial vote counts, Harper figured his campaign had ended, but then the tide began to shift. Wednesday afternoon found the candidate reluctant to declare a narrow-margin victory.

It's unclear whether the 202,166 still-uncounted mail-in ballots may affect the District 1 race. Stephens took to social media late Tuesday to express his thanks to supporters.

"Win or lose I have no regrets," he said.

In District 2, newcomer Loren Gamaros walked away with a win and 49.8% of the vote with 3,282 ballots cast over challenger Ben Chapman's 1,984 votes, which netted 30.11%.

A liaison for a nonprofit that trains apprentices for union positions, Gamaros campaigned alongside wife Heather, 14-year-old



Scott Smeltzer | Staff Photographer

**JADE DELMORRIS** places an "I voted" sticker on her jacket after casting her ballot at Costa Mesa City Hall on Tuesday.

son Kyle and daughter Presley, 6.

He said when Foley approached him about running for office, it seemed like the right time.

"She said, we need some boots on the ground people who can relate, and that's me," he recalled. "I see a lot of agitators online making bold statements, but I don't see a lot of people doing anything — I'm a doer, not a talker."

Gamaros said Wednesday his top priority would be helping Costa Mesans recover from the COVID-19 crisis, both physically and economically.

The 6th Council District drew four contenders and resulted in an early win for Planning Commissioner Jeff Harlan, who secured 48.16% of the vote with 3,983 ballots.

He was followed by Jeff Pettis, who earned 19.89% of the vote and the confidence of 1,645 residents.

Harlan said Wednesday, after staying up late Tuesday to watch local and national races, he was excited to represent the city's Eastside. He said he plans to bring his background as an urban planner and land use attorney to bear as Costa Mesa updates the housing element in its general plan.

"Housing is very complicated — we've got regulatory pressures from the state and community members who don't want to see any growth," he

said. "It's an incredible balancing act."

## BID TO LEGALIZE RETAIL CANNABIS WINS

Measure Q — a city-initiated effort to allow for the retail sale and delivery of marijuana — passed Tuesday with 65.69% of the vote and 27,708 ballots cast, compared to 14,473 opposed.

The move could generate around \$3 million annually through a proposed taxation of 4% to 7% on sales receipts.

Tuesday's vote echoed the results of a study conducted this summer, in which 68% of 427 respondents favored legalizing retail businesses.

Foley said Wednesday Measure Q would not only provide a revenue stream but allow city officials to regulate dispensaries and crack down on illegal operators.

Gamaros said he favored a well-thought out ordinance that would bring both medical and financial benefits to the city's residents.

Harper, however, said he had mixed feelings about the city's mailing out educational materials regarding Measure Q in advance of Election Day.

"I don't think a city should rightfully promote a proposition either way," he said. "They should be neutral."

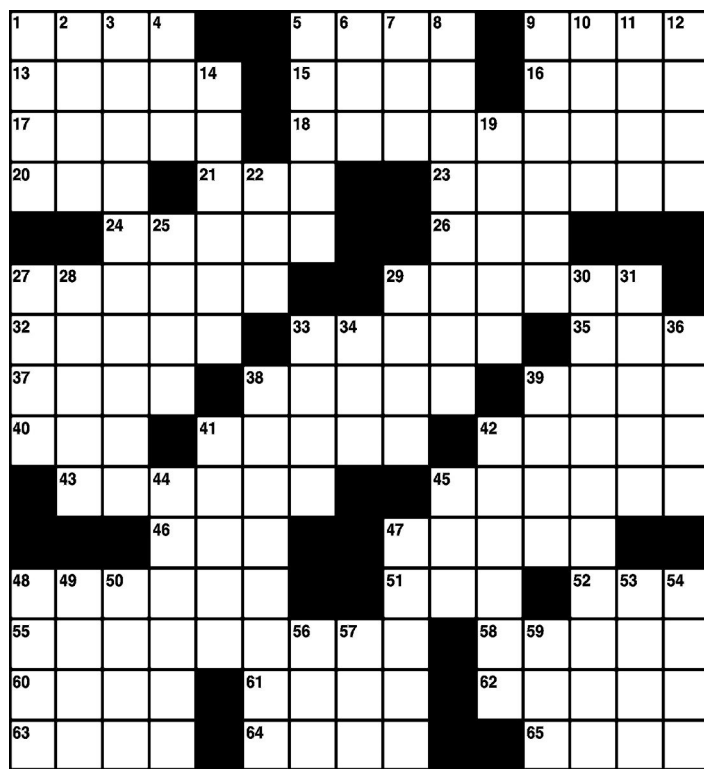
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## THE DAILY COMMUTER PUZZLE

By Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

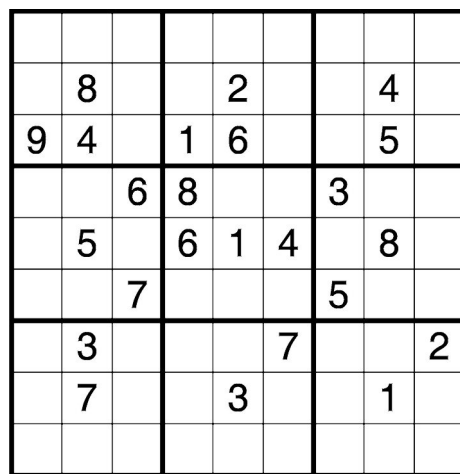
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- 5 "The \_ the limit!"
- 9 Cast- \_ skillet
- 13 Made a mistake
- 15 Actress Amanda
- 16 Source of woe
- 17 Penniless
- 18 Opposite of guilt
- 20 Cinder
- 21 In just a \_; soon
- 23 Came together
- 24 Ticked off
- 26 " \_ Baba and the Forty Thieves"
- 27 Convent closet contents
- 29 Filled pastry
- 32 " \_ Blue Gown"; Broadway musical tune
- 33 Potato exporter
- 35 Cattle call
- 37 Carryall
- 38 Cemetery units
- 39 Extend across
- 40 "Murder, \_ Wrote"
- 41 Governors
- 42 Picked
- 43 "The \_ Family"; John Astin sitcom
- 45 Jerseys & tunics
- 46 Basketball hoop
- 47 Pass out
- 48 Take long steps
- 51 Package delivery svc.
- 52 \_ over; everywhere
- 55 Help a foreigner understand
- 58 Singer
- 60 Cry for more slop
- 61 British peer
- 62 Door securers
- 63 Houseplant containers
- 64 TV's "Happy \_"



## SUDOKU

By The Mepham Group

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit [sudoku.org.uk](http://sudoku.org.uk).



**For answers to the crossword and Sudoku puzzles, see page A4.**

- 65 Quilting parties
- 5 Ill will
- 6 Barbie's beau
- 7 Japan's dollar
- 8 Tummies
- 9 Spain's peninsula
- 10 \_ out; pealed
- 11 Way back when
- 12 Have to have

- 14 Formal argument
- 19 Yo-Yo Ma's strings
- 22 " \_ now or never"
- 25 Cereal grain
- 27 Head toppers
- 28 Hello in Hilo
- 29 Dines
- 30 Of no \_; insignificant
- 31 Cut of beef
- 33 Troubles
- 34 Unknown John
- 36 Small numbers
- 38 Battered
- 39 Tibia
- 41 Sudden attacks
- 42 Sculptor's tool
- 44 Bar orders
- 45 Maple tree secretion
- 47 Coal and gas
- 48 Highway sign
- 49 Threesome
- 50 \_ and rave; carry on
- 53 Take a fancy to
- 54 \_ than pleased; dissatisfied
- 56 Battery size
- 57 Attempt
- 59 Carl Reiner's son

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**ELECTION 2020**

# Rouda narrowly trails Steel in 48th District race

**BY BRADLEY ZINT**

The race for the 48th Congressional District remained tight Wednesday, as Michelle Steel maintained her lead against incumbent Rep. Harley Rouda.

According to registrar voter returns as of 5 p.m. Wednesday, Steel, a Republican from Surfside who serves as chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, had 171,461 votes — 2,851 more than Rouda's 168,610.

All precincts had reported in, but the registrar had an estimated 202,166 ballots left to count coun-

tywide.

"We feel good about where things stand but will continue monitoring as more results come in," said Lance Trover, Steel's campaign spokesman.

The potential ouster of Rouda, a Democrat from Emerald Bay in Laguna Beach, would return the seat to Republican control.

Prior to Rouda's win in 2018, the seat was held by Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Costa Mesa).

In a Facebook post made Wednesday morning prior to the day's latest ballot returns, Rouda thanked his volunteers.

"This is a campaign run by and for the people, and I could not be prouder of our grassroots movement," he said. "We are confident that the voters of California's 48th district put country over party at the ballot box and voted for integrity and decency."

**SENATE RACE CONTINUES IN DEMOCRATS' FAVOR**

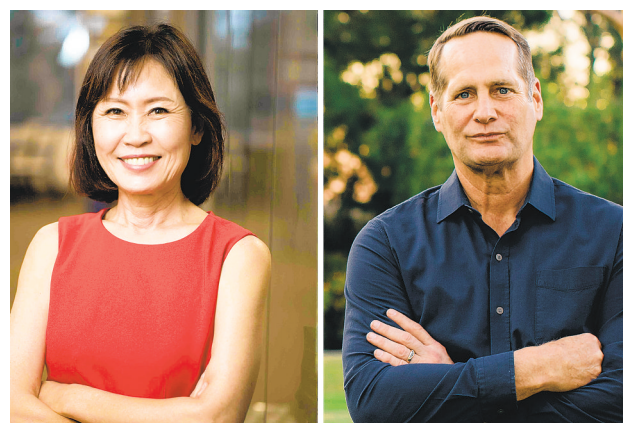
Wednesday's returns in the 37th state Senate seat continued showing Dave Min, a UC Irvine law professor, in the lead against incumbent Sen. John Moorlach (R-Costa Mesa). As of 5 p.m., Min had

234,274 votes to Moorlach's 217,807.

"We want to thank our countless volunteers and supporters for their tireless work on the campaign," said Ash Alvandi, Min's campaign manager. "While we remain cautiously optimistic, we must wait until every vote is counted, which is the bedrock principle of our democracy."

The potential outcome favoring Min would mark a change for the district, which has been held by Moorlach since 2015.

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Courtesy of Michelle Steel and Harley Rouda

**MICHELLE STEEL**, left, chairwoman of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, and incumbent Harley Rouda are in a close battle for the 48th Congressional District, which covers coastal Orange County.

# Kanye West receives thousands of votes from Orange County residents

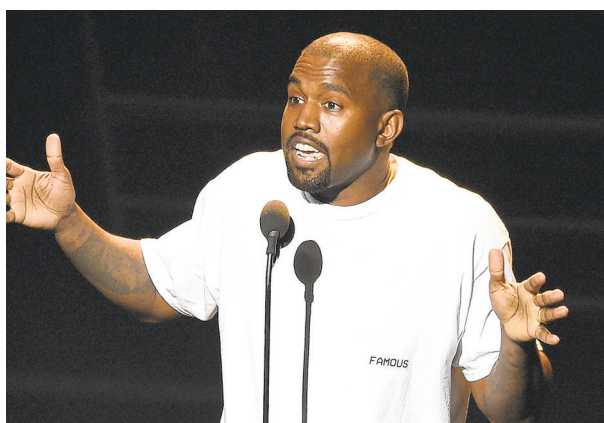
**BY BEN BRAZIL**

As the nation breathlessly watches a tight presidential race and agonizes over the future of American democracy, Kim Kardashian's husband received thousands of votes from Orange County residents this week.

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, West and his Independent Party running mate Roque "Rocky" De La Fuente Guerra received 3,394 votes from Orange County residents. West was listed as a vice presidential candidate on the California ballot.

It won't be good enough to put the man who called himself "the greatest artist that God has ever created" in the Oval Office. West conceded defeat late Tuesday night after falling behind Joe Biden and Donald Trump by tens of millions of votes.

West ran on a platform that included restoration of prayer in schools, expansion of education op-



Chris Pizzello | Associated Press

**KANYE WEST** at the MTV Video Music Awards in 2016. He has conceded defeat in his bid for the White House.

portunities, investment in renewable energy and criminal justice reform. "In our future, we will H.E.A.L.," his campaign website reads, "Hold Everyone Accountable to Love."

West, who appeared on the ballot as an independent in several states, could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

In Los Angeles County, West and Guerra received

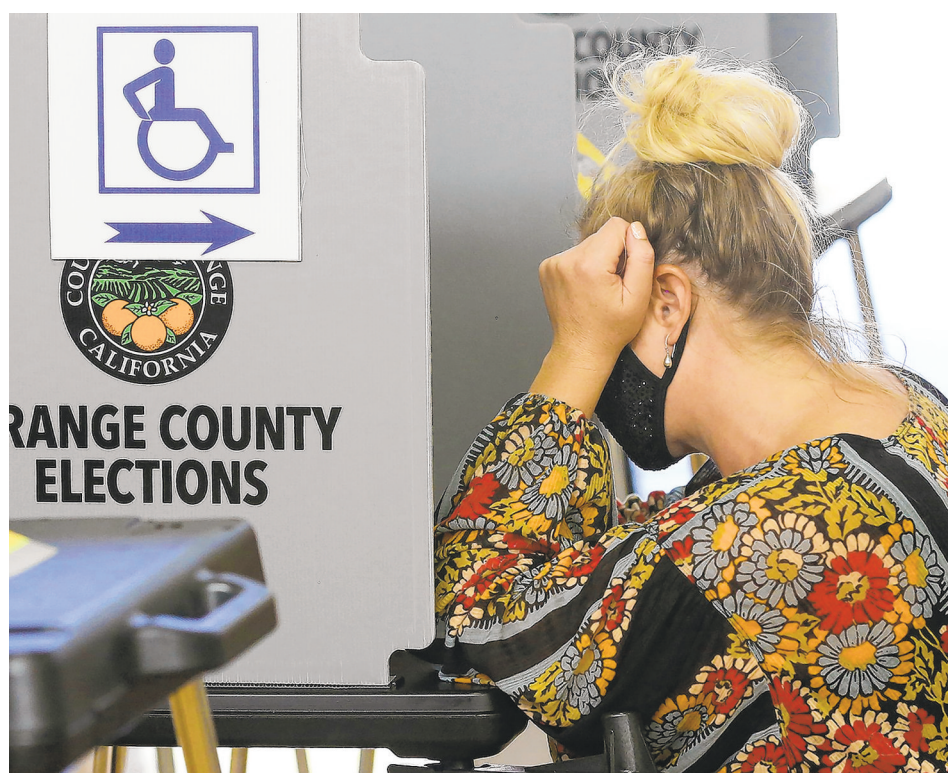
more than 10,000 votes.

A few people voiced their dismay on Twitter at West's vote totals.

One Twitter account read, "2623 adults in #OrangeCounty voted for Kanye! Post election task: Find ALL and cancel their voting rights!"

"Oh lord," another user commented.

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Don Leach | Staff Photographer

**A VOTER** fills out her ballot at the Lang Park voting center in Laguna Beach on Tuesday.

## LAGUNA

Continued from page A1

Looking back on a unique campaign in which the coronavirus pandemic limited in-person events and interactions, Whalen speculated that his track record on wildfire mitigation and public safety appealed to the voters.

"[Public safety has] always been my priority number one and will continue to be," Whalen said. "Not just fire safety, obviously, but police and marine safety. We've got sort of a three-pronged public safety effort here."

Whalen has 5,819 votes (24.55%) and is well positioned to defend his council seat.

The same could not be said, however, for Mayor Pro Tem Steve Dicterow, a longtime member of the council who has served five terms in total.

Dicterow projects to finish last among the five candidates, currently garnering 3,150 votes (13.29%).

In the lead for the second available seat is George Weiss with 5,177 votes (21.84%), followed closely by Ruben Flores with 5,005 votes (21.12%).

Dicterow congratulated Whalen and Weiss on their campaigns.

He ran on a platform that included wanting to give the city's neighborhoods back to the residents as opposed to what he called "the day trippers." Dicterow added that he had not previously faced defeat in an election.

"I feel very comfortable that I ran the campaign that I wanted to run," Dicterow said. "I got out there, I went door-to-door, got to at least 3,500 homes, and if you get to all those homes and you still can't get people to vote for you, then that's a message."

With the ballot asking voters to choose two candidates for the City Council, there was likely some overlap between Weiss and Flores voters.

Weiss, who was a co-founder of Laguna Resi-

dents First, and Flores both have shown a desire to preserve the "look and feel" of Laguna Beach.

"I'm looking forward to serving," Weiss said, adding that he felt he was in good shape as far as the election results.

"Every decision I make, I'm going to be guided by what's in the best interest of the largest number of residents, and [making sure] it's fiscally sound and compatible with our environment and compatible with the development that's in Laguna currently."

"That's what I'm after, that's what I'm about, and that's what I'm going to do." Larry Nokes was in fourth place with 4,548 votes (19.19%).

There is also a close, two-person race to take the place of Lisette Chel-Walker as Laguna Beach city clerk. Ann Marie McKay is in the lead with 6,041 votes (52.06%). Mariann Tracy has received 5,564 votes.

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## GRANDIS

Continued from page A1

to address the city's debt, support small businesses through the pandemic, and determine the new development options for Fountain Bowl, whose property is up for sale, and Boomers, which is closed.

"We want to develop them in a way that maintains our nice place to live," Grandis said.

Bui thanked Councilman Steve Nagel, who did not seek reelection, and Brothers for their decades of service.

Bui added, "However, the people of Fountain Valley have spoken. They want new faces and new vision



Ted Bui

for the community." He also thanked his family, supporters and donors, saying his potential

victory "belongs to you all as well. I couldn't have done it without you."

Brothers, who was appointed mayor in December, has been a longtime leader on the council, serving terms from 2002 to 2010, then returning in 2012.

She said with her potential departure, and Nagel leaving, a lot of historical knowledge is leaving the

dais.

"We worked hard over the years to leave the city in good shape," Brothers said. "Hopefully [the new council members] keep it that way."

As of 5 p.m. Wednesday, trailing the top three were Mai-Khanh Tran, a pediatrician, with 7,271 votes; Jim Cunneen, a Fountain Valley School District trustee, with 6,004 votes; Tom Nguyen, a director for the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce, with 3,039 votes; and Mary Pham, retired medical worker, with 2,414 votes.

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