

Nash, Nace, Cooper winners

District races go to Rowland, Eddy and Williams-Neal

By MATT CAMPBELL, MIKE RICE and GLENN E. RICE
The Kansas City Star

Troy L. Nash, Becky Nace and Bonnie Sue Cooper easily won their races Tuesday for at-large seats on the City Council.

In the district races, Jim Rowland and Charles A. Eddy were elected and incumbent Mary Williams-Neal was re-elected.

In the contest for the 3rd District at-large seat, Nash played catch-up after the primary to finish way ahead of Saundra McFadden-Weaver. Nash won 57 percent to 43 percent.

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"I've been up for two straight days, doing nothing but contacting as many people as I could," Nash said from his victory party. "We ran a very grass-roots oriented campaign.... We had people going door to door since the primary. We targeted areas where we were under 40 percent" in the primary.

Nash, 29, was backed by Mayor Emanuel Cleaver. Nash emphasized his experience at City Hall as a council and mayoral aide. He is a program director at the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

It was McFadden-Weaver's second run for a council seat. The 39-year-old pastor emphasized her passion for people, which she called the city's most important asset.

In the 2nd District at-large race, Cooper, a state representative since 1982, thwarted Bobby Hernandez's bid to return to the City Council.

With 100 percent of the

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WENDY YANG/The Kansas City Star

While waiting for results Tuesday in the 3rd District at-large City Council race, Troy Nash and his great-niece, Jasmie Hatcher, 4, spent the time together at Nash's home. Nash ran a successful catch-up campaign to defeat Saundra McFadden-Weaver.

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COUNCIL: At-large winners are Nash, Nace and Cooper

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precincts reporting, Cooper outpolled Hernandez 57 percent to 42 percent.

Cooper's win was a huge victory for the Northland, which will have four representatives on the City Council for the first time. The other Northland council members — Ed Ford, Teresa Loar and Paul Danaher — were unopposed in their re-election bids.

"This means that we will finally be recognized as part of Kansas City," Cooper said at her victory party Tuesday night.

And the City Council will have five women, including Mayor-elect Kay Waldo Barnes. The other women will be Cooper, Loar, Nace and Williams-Neal.

"This election showed that Kansas City is ready for a change," Cooper said. "People want a corruption-free and progressive government."

Hernandez tried to paint Cooper, a Republican lawmaker, as a right-wing conservative. Cooper countered that her voting record in Jefferson City had been moderate. She stressed the \$5 million in state money she helped steer toward renovation of the Liberty Memorial.

In the 5th District at-large race, Nace defeated Holli L. Holliday, 63 percent to 36 percent.

With her win, Nace is the first resident of the secluded sector of Kansas City east of Raytown to be elected to the council.

"We worked really hard and tried to be positive," Nace said about her successful campaign. "We stuck to the issues."

Nace, a Raytown School Board member, campaigned on a commitment to basic services and neighborhood improvements without a tax increase.

Despite running for an at-large seat in a predominantly black district, Nace, who is white, said she had lived in different parts of the city and understood the needs of all residents.

Holliday, the daughter of former Jackson County legislator Harold Holliday Jr., ran on a platform to improve neighborhoods, develop initiatives for youths and help small businesses.

3rd District

In the 3rd District race, Mary Williams-Neal fought back a challenge from Carol Coe. Williams-Neal won 57 percent to 43 percent.

"We stayed with a positive campaign," said Williams-Neal, surrounded by family members at her home. "We focused on neighborhoods. We had a lot of support from the civic community."

Williams-Neal, 53, was first elected to the council in 1995 after de-

KANSAS CITY COUNCIL

2nd District at-large

100% of precincts reporting
Bonnie Sue Cooper41,238
Bobby Hernandez30,212

3rd District at-large

100% of precincts reporting
S. McFadden-Weaver30,312
Troy Nash40,238

3rd District

100% of precincts reporting
Carol Coe3,161
Mary Williams-Neal4,241

4th District

100% of precincts reporting
Charlotte Hill6,674
Jim Rowland9,298

5th District at-large

100% of precincts reporting
Holli Holliday25,320
Becky Nace44,131

6th District

100% of precincts reporting
Darrell Curls6,301
Charles Eddy6,722

feating then-incumbent Coe. The 51-year-old Coe charged that Williams-Neal had not been responsive to the 3rd District's needs.

Williams-Neal cited her work for neighborhoods, for cleanup programs, for clearing blight and creating new housing.

She has shown little tolerance for groups she believes have wasted public money. She was instrumental in cutting money to the Community Housing and Information Center and, more recently, to the Community Development Corp. of Kansas City.

4th District

In what might be the most expensive council election in the city's history, Jim Rowland defeated Charlotte Hill in the 4th District race.

Although Hill had raised nearly \$65,000 more than Rowland, she was outpolled 58 percent to 42 percent.

After Rowland outpolled Hill in the March 2 primary, Hill, who had already spent \$30,000, said she would spend an additional \$100,000.

Rowland claimed that Hill was trying to buy the election and predicted that it would backfire. On Tuesday he said his prediction was correct.

"People saw someone who was ready and prepared to be an effective leader from day one," Rowland said. "If there was another message in the victory it was that there was a loud and clear message that money does not influence the outcome of an election."

Rowland, a manager with an information technologies consulting

firm, ran an aggressive campaign that included several mailings and phone banks. He criticized Hill for taking donations from "special interests."

6th District

In the 6th District, chiropractor Charles A. Eddy bested autoworker Darrell Curls, 51 percent to 48 percent.

"I feel the campaign did everything we could possibly do to win," Eddy said. "We worked hard since the primary; now I just want to go to work and correct the number of problems we have."

Curls and Eddy both have served on the Public Improvement Advisory Committee.

Curls, 40, emphasized basic services and neighborhood issues. Eddy, 51, emphasized the need for traffic corridor improvements and economic development.

Curls is open to a study of firefighters assuming ambulance duties, but Eddy opposed the idea.

Unopposed candidates elected Tuesday were 1st District at-large incumbent Ed Ford; 1st District incumbent Teresa Loar; 2nd District incumbent Paul Danaher; 4th District at-large incumbent Evert Asjes III; 5th District incumbent Kelvin Simmons; and 6th District at-large candidate Alvin L. Brooks.