

LOCAL ELECTION RESULTS

Charles back as Ashland's mayor

BY AARON SNYDER
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

ASHLAND After learning of his victory in a nail-biter of a mayoral race, Chuck Charles left the Boyd County Clerk's Office to head to the Guitar Bar in downtown Ashland to celebrate.



CHARLES

Perhaps the establishment had Aerosmith's "Back in the Saddle" cued for Charles's entrance.

Charles collected 4,061 votes and Josh Blanton tallied 3,828. Charles will begin his second term as Ashland's mayor in January 2025. He also served

from 2013-16.

Charles will fill the seat left vacant by Matt Perkins, who elected not to run after one four-year term.

"I'm so excited, not necessarily excited

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Thompson will represent 98th District

BY LEE WARD
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

GREENUP Republican Aaron Thompson has won the race for 98th District Representative for Greenup County and parts of Boyd County, defeating Democrat Tammie Womack.



THOMPSON

They were running for the seat previously held by Danny Bentley, who retired this year after seven years in office.

"It's been a really good campaign and we worked hard to earn every single

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Voters turn out in droves across NEKY

Process described as 'smooth,' 'slick as a whistle'

BY AARON SNYDER, MARY JANE EPLING AND MATT JONES
THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Area voters flocked to the polls with various reasons for casting ballots — from simply exercising their rights to weighing in on local, state and national issues and races.

Presidential elections historically result in larger turnouts, and 2024 was no exception.

Even with record numbers of early voting, residents swarmed northeastern Kentucky polling places to continue their day-of traditions, too.

The Daily Independent spoke with voters in Boyd, Carter and Greenup counties about what drove them to the ballot boxes on Tuesday.

Boyd County

Poll workers from across the county said they were busy from open to close. The most traffic was evident early in the morning between 6 and 7, and then around lunch time — noon to 1 p.m.

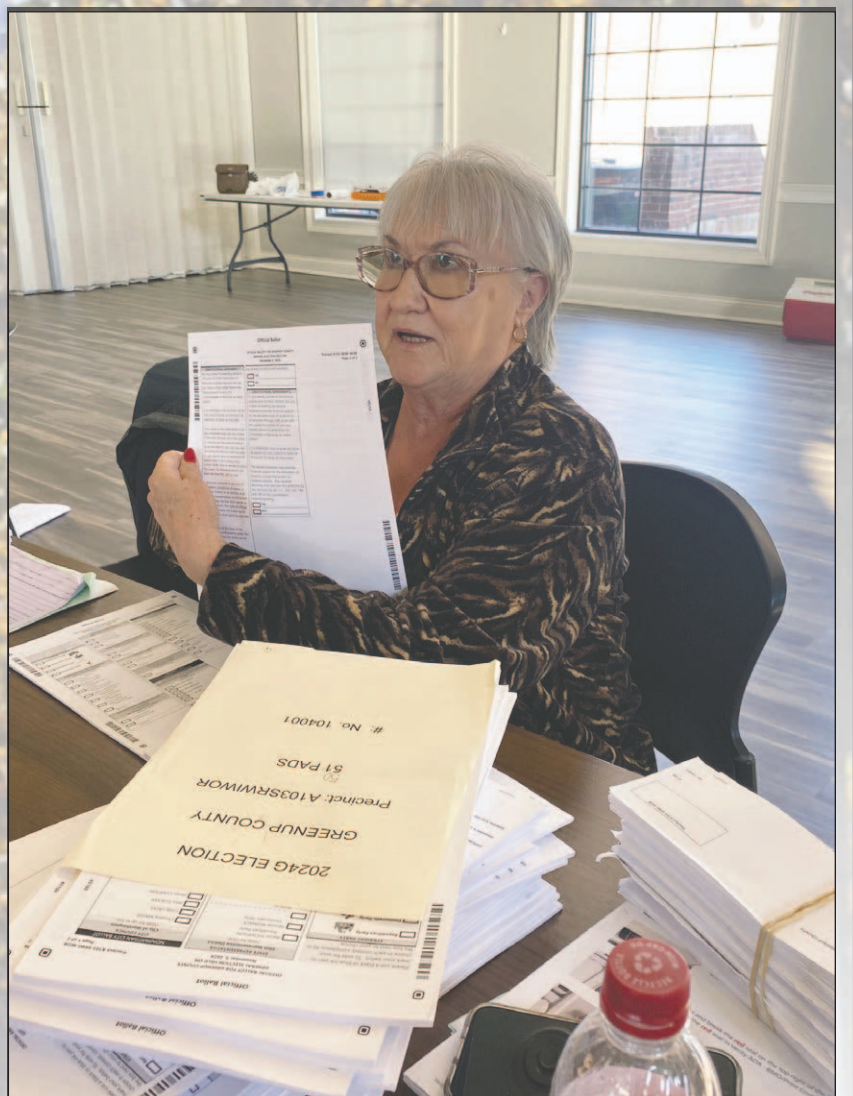
Jerry Ross, of Catlettsburg, spoke for many Boyd Countians when he said Tuesday's voting process was "slick as a whistle."

"Not one hiccup," he said after voting inside the Boyd County Convention and Arts Center.

Ross and many other Boyd County folks had similar responses to the following question: What were the most important issues and/or races on the ballot this year?

"President," he said. "It's probably one of the most important (presidential elections) in my lifetime. The United States is in heck of a (bad) shape right now. ... I think we're on a downhill slide as the United States as I knew it."

Nola Davis, of Cannonsburg, agreed with Ross in terms of the weight this election carries.



MATT JONES | THE DAILY INDEPENDENT

Mary Martin, precinct judge at Raceland schools, explains the ballot to a voter during Tuesday's election.

She didn't shy away from revealing her presidential choice.

"I want Trump back in there because look at the prices of gas, groceries," Davis said. "They went in there and stopped that wall at the border; they stopped that gas line going, took so many jobs away from us. I don't know what it will be like with four more years. I worry about my children, my grandchildren, my great-grandchildren."

Sarah Craig decided her son should tag along with her to the Boyd County Convention and Arts Center.

"I know he thinks it's kind of boring, but I did think it was important to get him out and at

least experience how it works," Craig said. "It's pretty painless. Everything was set up, laid out really well, well-organized. Even though it doesn't matter to him much right now, hopefully it'll become something that's important to him on down the line."

Craig said she noticed poll workers giving voters detailed instructions on what to do if anyone was confused.

While she did not divulge her preferences, Craig said she was ready for "a change of scenery."

"Let's start a new chapter," she said. "It's good to hit the reset button."

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Trump, Harris rack up early wins, await battleground results

WASHINGTON (AP) Former President Donald Trump and Vice President Kamala Harris notched early wins in reliably Republican and Democratic states, respectively, as a divided America made its decision in a stark choice for the nation's future Tuesday.

Polls closed in Pennsylvania, Georgia, Michigan, Arizona, Wisconsin and North Carolina, six of the seven closely fought battlegrounds expected to decide the election, but the results there were too early to call. Balloting continued in Nevada and other parts of

the West on Election Day, as tens of millions of Americans added their ballots to the 84 million cast early as they chose between two candidates with drastically different temperaments and visions for the country.

Trump won Florida, a one-time battleground that has shifted heavily to Republicans in recent elections. He also notched early wins in reliably Republican states such as Texas, South Carolina and Indiana, while Harris took Democratic strongholds like New York, Massachusetts and

Illinois.

The fate of democracy appeared to be a primary driver for Harris' supporters, a sign that the Democratic nominee's persistent messaging in her campaign's closing days accusing Trump of being a fascist may have broken through, according to AP VoteCast. The expansive survey of more than 110,000 voters nationwide also found a country mired in negativity and desperate for change. Trump's supporters were largely focused on immigration and inflation — two

issues that the former Republican president has been hammering since the start of his campaign.

Those casting Election Day ballots mostly encountered a smooth process, with isolated reports of hiccups that regularly happen, including long lines, technical issues and ballot printing errors.

Harris has promised to work across the aisle to tackle economic worries and other issues without radically departing from the course set by President Joe Biden. Trump has vowed to replace thou-

sands of federal workers with loyalists, impose sweeping tariffs on allies and foes alike, and stage the largest deportation operation in U.S. history.

Harris and Trump entered Election Day focused on seven swing states, five of them carried by Trump in 2016 before they flipped to Biden in 2020: the "blue wall" of Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin as well as Arizona and Georgia. Nevada and North Carolina, which Democrats and Republicans respectively

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