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Republicans poised to sweep Warren, Watchung elections

Watchung Hills towns back Biden in presidential race

By ALEX PARKER-MAGYAR
EDITOR

Republican candidates appear likely to sweep elections to the Warren Township Committee and Watchung Borough Council, as they maintain steady and growing leads over Democrats with each new ballot count from the Somerset County Board of Elections.

The Somerset County Clerk's Office posted updated results early Monday afternoon, Nov. 9, six days after Election Day.

With four candidates running for two, three-year seats on the Warren Township Committee, Republican incumbents George K. Lazo and Michael "Mick" Marion have expanded their lead over Democrats and John Patrick Fahy and Ilana Goldstein-Barsky.

The updated results showed Lazo with 5,198 votes,



GEORGE LAZO



MICHAEL MARION



RONALD JUBIN



FREDDIE HAYECK

Marion with 5,109 votes, Fahy with 3,910 votes and Goldstein-Barsky with 3,831 votes.

If the results stand, Lazo and Marion will begin their fourth consecutive terms on the all-Republican committee in January.

Republicans also widened their lead in the race for two, three-year seats on the Watchung Borough Council, according to the results from the county clerk's office.

Republican Ronald Jubin, an incumbent, led with 1,968 votes, followed by Republican running mate Freddie Hayeck with 1,952 votes, Dem-

ocrat Yvette Whitley Nora with 1,536 votes, and Democrat Richard Steinfeld with 1,432 votes.

The Borough Council is currently split 4-2 in favor of the Democrats with a Democratic mayor. If the results stand, the council would retain its current 4-2 makeup with Hayeck replacing Republican Councilman Stephen Black, who did not seek re-election.

In the only other contested race local to the Watchung Hills, a five-person race for three seats on the grades K-8 school board in Warren,

updated results had Laura Keller in the lead with 4,057 votes, followed by board member David Brezee with 3,214 votes, Todd Weinstein with 2,992 votes, Board President Christian Bellmann with 2,839 votes, and Eric D. Winch with 2,071 votes.

Meanwhile, the election results showed voters in Warren, Watchung and Long Hill choosing former Vice President Democrat Joe Biden over Republican President Donald Trump in the race for the White House.

A majority of ballots counted in Warren and Watchung so far went for Republican State Senator Tom Kean Jr. over Democrat Rep. Tom Malinowski in the race for the 7th Congressional District, while most in Long Hill voted for Malinowski, per the partial results. The Associated Press (AP) declared Malinowski the victor the night of the election, though Kean

had not conceded as of Tuesday, Nov. 10, and ballots continue to be counted.

Legalized recreational marijuana was supported by a majority of voters in all three towns. The ballot question was easily approved by voters statewide.

Final voter turnout figures for the three Watchung Hills towns were not yet available.

Here's how residents of the Watchung Hills voted in federal, state and county elections:

Warren Township

President: (D) Joe Biden, 4,792; (R) Donald Trump, 4,536.

Congress: (R) Tom Kean Jr., 5,043; (D) Tom Malinowski, 4,239.

U.S. Senate: (R) Rikin Mehta, 4,821; (D) Cory Booker, 4,412.

Freeholder: (R) Brian Levine, 5,134; (R) Brian Gallagher, 5,076; (D) Paul Drake,

3,812; (D) Doug Singletery, 3,775;

Surrogate: (R) Frank Bruno, 5,117; (D) Bernice Jalloh, 3,838.

Question 1 - Legalize recreational marijuana: Yes, 5,529; No, 3,595.

Question 2 - Extend property tax deductions for veterans who did not serve in wartime: Yes, 6,346; No, 2,590.

Question 3 - Delay legislative redistricting if Census data is delayed due to pandemic: Yes, 4,723; No, 3,942.

Long Hill Township

President: (D) Joe Biden, 1,728; (R) Donald Trump, 1,305.

Congress: (D) Tom Malinowski, 1,512; (R) Tom Kean Jr., 1,332.

U.S. Senate: (D) Cory Booker, 1,604; (R) Rikin Mehta, 1,332.

Freeholder: (D) Cary

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CANDY FOR TROOPS

From left, Watchung Hills Regional High School students Mattingly Weisholtz, Elina Xu and Lara Martin pose with some of the candy they collected to donate to U.S. troops through their newly launched "This is What Needs to Happen" community service club. Please read more about the club on page 3.

COVID-19 cases climb across Watchung Hills

Confirmed COVID-19 cases skyrocketed across Morris County from Monday, Nov. 2, to Monday, Nov. 9, as Long Hill Township and the Somerset County towns of Warren and Watchung also saw significant increases in local coronavirus cases.

Morris County had its largest Monday-to-Monday increase in COVID-19 cases since April, as 975 new cases were reported from Nov. 2 to Nov. 9, according to the state Department of Health.

The 975 new cases marked a stark increase from prior weeks, though the figures have climbed steadily throughout the fall. Some 529 new Morris County cases were reported last week, 444 new cases two weeks ago, and 308 new cases the week before that. The county's total now stands at 10,523 confirmed cases throughout the pandemic, and 697 confirmed coronavirus-related deaths.

Somerset County, meanwhile, saw its lowest weekly increase in the past month. The Somerset County Department of Health reported 127 new cases from Nov. 2 to Nov. 9, down from 244 new cases last week, 194 new cases the week before and 152 new cases the week before that. The county department of health has reported a total of 6,498 cases and 524 deaths since March.

A wide gulf persists between the figures reported by the county's health department and those reported by the state. The state has reported a total of 7,009 cases in Somerset County, rather than the 6,498 reported by the county.

Ten new COVID-19 cases were reported in Long Hill in the past week, equaling the highest Monday-to-Monday increase in the township since mid-April, according to the Morris County Office of Health Management. Six new cases were reported in Long Hill last week, 10 the week before, and three the week before that. A total of 97 COVID-19 cases have been reported in Long Hill during the pandemic.

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No deer hunt this year in Watchung

By NICOLE ZANCHELLI
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

>> RELATED LETTER

Resident thankful for vote. Please see page 5.

WATCHUNG - There will be no municipal deer cull program this year after a 5-1 vote of the Borough Council on Thursday, Nov. 5, sent the Wildlife Management Committee back to the drawing board.

The lack of deer culling sites was the driving factor behind the council's decision to call off this year's deer management program.

"In past years, there was always some form of a proliferation of sites. These sites have now diminished," said Councilman Stephen Black. "Without these viable sites, I feel it is not going to be a productive culling and it would be a total waste of our time this year."

One of the larger sites usually reserved for deer hunting - a 41-acre parcel on Bonnie Burn Road - is off the table this hunting season. The property owners, who are suing the Planning Board over

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HERE and ON DISPLAY for ONE DAY ONLY
The All-Electric Ford Mustang Mach-E
Come See and Learn More About this All-New electric vehicle.

Where: Ditschman/Flemington Ford
215 US Highway 202
Flemington, NJ

When: Monday, November 16, 2020
1pm-7pm

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3kVyD8C>

Or, Scan this QR Code with your phone to sign up



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