

Local KS elections decided Tuesday

(MSC News)--Kansas voters went to the polls Tuesday in to decide local, state and federal races.

A narrow margin in the race for Atchison County Commission District 1.

As it currently stands, Republican incumbent Jack Bower leads his Democratic challenger, Charlie Perdue, by just 17 votes, 680 to 663.

Those numbers, like all votes cast Tuesday, remain unofficial until the formal canvass.

In Atchison County, that will happen during Tuesday's meeting of the Atchison County Commission. Around 30 provisional ballots await review, and mail-in ballots are also awaited by their end of the week deadline.

▣ Left to right: Jack Bower and Charlie Perdue

According to Atchison County Clerk Michelle Phillips the unofficial voter turnout in Atchison County was 47%.

A total of 5,435 ballots were cast, with 1,460 of those being advance, walk-in, mail out advance, and overseas ballots.

That figure does not include provisional ballots.

In Hiawatha, voters approved the renewal of a one-quarter percent citywide sales tax for economic development purposes by a more than 260 vote margin, 662 to 394.

The sales tax, which is currently set to expire March 31, 2020, will continue for an additional 15 years until March 31, 2035.

John Merchant, Jr. was elected as the new Hiawatha Commissioner of Finance in a three-way race. Merchant received 498 votes. Write-in candidate David Middendorf, who current holds the position, received 288 votes. Matthew Haws, who recently withdrew from the race, received 236 votes.

Richard Lehmkuhl was elected as the new 1st District Brown County Commissioner. Lehmkuhl defeated incumbent Steve Roberts, who ran as a write-in candidate, by a vote margin of 911 to 414.

The Brown County Clerk's Office reported a 55 percent voter turnout.

In Marshall County, Republican Barb Kickhaefer was elected as the new 1st District county commissioner.

Kickhaefer defeated Democrat Steve Boyda by a vote of 704 to 650. Incumbent Robert Connell did not seek re-election.

Voters in the Jefferson County community of Winchester approved a one-half percent citywide sales tax for infrastructure maintenance by a vote of 86 to 62. It will take effect April 1, 2019.

62nd District State Representative Randy Garber, a Sabetha Republican, won re-election to another term, defeating his Democratic challenger Melvin Baker, of Seneca, by a wide margin.

Garber received 70 percent of the vote to Baker's 30 percent.

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