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In Atlantic City, 5th and 6th ward incumbents' seat threatened

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By EMILY PREVITI Staff Writer |

ATLANTIC CITY — Two City Council races were too close to call late Tuesday night — leaving a partisan election for the first time in three decades in a city so heavily Democratic that people

“I’m absolutely stunned,” said City Council President William Marsh of the narrow margins in the election. “I’m trying to figure this whole thing out. I never thought it would be that close.”

Marsh handily won re-election in the 4th Ward, as did Aaron “Sporty” Randolph in the 1st Ward. Anthony Mancuso was just barely ahead - by 27 votes - in his bid for a sixth term representing the 6th Ward.

Mancuso, who didn’t return calls placed Tuesday, brought in 612 votes — 27 ahead of Republican

Fifth Ward City Council candidates Sharon Zappia, a Republican, and Rizwan Malik, a Democrat. Unofficial election results from the Atlantic County clerk’s website.

These tallies included only nonprovisional votes placed at polls Tuesday. Final results will include mail-in ballots, which were not available from Atlantic County election workers.

Atlantic City Council candidates expected to get a count on provisional ballots this morning. The end of the week.

“I’m encouraged by how well I did over someone who’s a quintessential ward political,” Kurtz said. “I was a tremendous campaigner — and I was able to hang with him in every regard.”

Zappia said she expected poll votes to put her ahead by more, but intends to challenge her opponent to victory.

“I’m not a sore loser, but I do know my opponent’s going to be nothing more than a rubber stamp said Tuesday.

City voters agreed in 2000 to resume partisan elections after a hiatus that began when the resort city government in 1982. Although registered Republicans won nonpartisan elections during the interim, an incoming and outgoing 5th Ward Councilman Dennis Mason — ultimately switched their affiliation to Democrat 10 years ago.

Malik’s defeat of Mason in the primary in June prompted the five-term incumbent to challenge re-election to live in the city — or hadn’t for the requisite year. After Mason lost that court battle, he provided 7

“I expected her to win this — and I think she will,” said Mason, declining to comment on the amount

Mason said Tuesday he believes the close 5th Ward race stems, in part, from voters’ doubts about the City also raised questions about that when Malik first sought an at-large council seat in 2009.

“If the Republicans were to win, it’s as much about the decline of party organization in Atlantic City as Douglas, director of the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy at the Richard Stockton College, said. The nature of these races — these are people who aren’t really aligned that deeply with their parties. If you’re a Republican. He’s an aggressive young fellow who’s really made a name for himself by working hard. The qualities of candidates that shine through.”

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