

Torliatt, Rabbitt in November runoff
Top vote-getters in primary will face off for supervisor

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Voters on Tuesday gave Mayor Pamela Torliatt and Councilmember David Rabbitt the nod to face off for the 2nd District County Supervisor position this November.

Both advanced past Tuesday's primary to the November runoff, gathering more votes than their opponents, Councilmember Mike Healy and Penn Grove accountant John King.

With all 45 precincts in the county's southernmost 2nd District reporting, Torliatt led with 37.5 percent of the vote and Rabbitt finished second at 25.3 percent. Healy and King got 19.1 percent and King got 18 percent of the vote.

"I'm just really proud that our message resonated with the voters, which is that I have 18 years of local and county experience that we can put to work for us," said Torliatt.

"I'm ecstatic to be in the November runoff and I'm really looking forward to it," said Rabbitt. "I think the choice will be clear."

Torliatt campaigned as the candidate with the most government experience to represent the south county and provide vital networking and connections. Her main priority is to create jobs by focusing on three growth industries — green technology, tourism and health care. She was on the City Council for 10 years before being elected mayor in 2006, and works part-time as a bookkeeper on her boyfriend's ranch.

Torliatt gathered endorsements from local and national leaders, including Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, and from environmental, open-space and Democratic organizations, along with various unions. She has raised \$154,631 in total donations to date.

"I really enjoy being out there and talking with the voters. It was a great seven months and I look forward to continuing to be in the community," she said.

Rabbitt presented himself as the most business-minded candidate, pledging to work with businesses and avoid "onerous" regulations and kick-start job creation.

"Their success is our success," he said about businesses.

Rabbitt, a private architect, is currently serving his first term on the City Council. He was elected in 2006 and his term expires at the end of the year.

Rabbitt got the endorsements of business and agriculture organizations as well as police and fire unions, and has raised \$119,883 in total contributions.

“I think the November race will have a different tone,” said Rabbitt, who emphasized his goal to focus on the issues rather than accusations.

Going into the runoff, Torliatt has \$45,836 in cash on-hand, and Rabbitt has \$15,548 to spend.

The two candidates who will not advance thanked their supporters and said they currently have no plans to support either Torliatt or Rabbitt.

“I wish Pam and David the best of luck,” said Healy, who ran as a moderate who pledged to avoid partisan bickering and solve the county’s infrastructure problems.

Healy said he hasn’t yet thought about supporting either candidate, but may do so eventually.

John King — who courted rural voters and sought to audit the county to find wasteful spending — said he now plans to register as a write-in candidate for the November election.

“I am not dropping out of this race,” he said, pointing out that a higher turnout is expected in November.

The 2nd District supervisor’s seat has been held by Mike Kerns, who is now retiring, since 1998. The 2nd District includes Petaluma, Cotati, part of Rohnert Park and rural Sonoma County land between Rohnert Park and the Sonoma-Marin county line.

If any candidate in Tuesday’s election had received more than 50 percent of the vote, they would have won the supervisor seat and there would have been no runoff.

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