

Oak Ridger, The (TN)

Estimated printed pages: 1

August 6, 2004
Section: News

Miller wins Council seat

JANE MILLER: 'I'm just thrilled, and still a little in shock.'

Stan Mitchell Oak Ridger Staff

stan.mitchell@oakridger.com

Oak Ridge voters decided they liked what they saw in the 10 months Jane Miller has served on City Council, electing her with a safe margin over Ellen Smith.

Miller, who was appointed to Council in October to replace Jerry Kuhaida, unofficially received 2,168 votes, to Smith's 1,362.

"I'm just thrilled, and still a little in shock," Miller said at a party at Pollard Technology Conference Center. "I appreciate every single vote. We've had so much support."

It didn't start out good for Miller. Earlier in the night, she received the results from Glenwood Elementary School and learned she had received 99 votes to Smith's 88.

"Of course, I thought, 'Wow, it's going to be close,'" Miller said. "So, I was pleasantly surprised (with the results)."

The newest elected member to Council said she was confident the high school referendum question played a role in her getting elected.

"I'm a big supporter of the school," she said.

Next year, Miller has to run again since Kuhaida's seat is up for election along with three others.

She acknowledged next year would be a tough race.

"I think we'll have some more candidates (running)," she said. "The dynamics will be totally different."

Miller beat Smith by 806 votes unofficially. Coming in third was Jerry Kuhaida, who had formally withdrawn from the race.

The unofficial vote tallies from both counties were:

* Miller: 2,168.

* Smith: 1,362.

* Kuhaida (withdrew): 486.

* Sam Childress: 404.

* Martin McBride (withdrew): 223.

* Art Shady: 164.

The official tally of the votes will be certified Thursday in Anderson County, and on Aug. 16 in Roane County.

Copyright 2004, 2006 The Oak Ridger. All Rights Reserved.