

Minneapolis Labor Review

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Minneapolis voters vote for change

MRLF's endorsed candidates win 10 of 13 Minneapolis City Council seats

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — In the highest voter turnout in a municipal election since 1993, Minneapolis voters voted for change November 7 and picked Jacob Frey as the city's new Mayor.

Voters re-elected eight of 11 Minneapolis City Council incumbents who sought re-election.

Three incumbents lost their re-election bids— Barb Johnson in Ward 4, Blong Yang in Ward 5, and John Quincy in Ward 11.

Voters elected six new members to the Minneapolis Park Board and re-elected three Park

Board incumbents.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, which did not award its AFL-CIO endorsement in the Minneapolis Mayor's race, saw wins for 10 of its 13 endorsed Minneapolis City Council candidates.

All five MRLF-endorsed candidates for Minneapolis Park Board were elected, producing a new Board with a 5-4 majority that ran with AFL-CIO backing (see page 5).

"Workers will be at the core of the agenda," said Mayor-elect Frey, addressing the MRLF's delegate meeting November 8 in MINNEAPOLIS page 4



Mayor-elect Frey: 'Workers will be at core of agenda'

MINNEAPOLIS — Jacob Frey, Mayor-elect of Minneapolis (photo above, left), visited the delegate meeting of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO the day after the November 7 election. "I want to work with you. I want a partnership," Frey told delegates. "Workers will be at the core of the agenda."

Voters pass Anoka-Hennepin levies

MRLF helps pass 20 of 23 levies in 12 school districts

By Steve Share, Labor Review editor

MINNEAPOLIS — Voters in Minneapolis-area suburban school districts said "yes" to schools by wide margins November 7, passing school levy requests in 12 school districts.

The levies will help reduce class sizes, build new schools, rehab existing facilities, and invest in new technology to enhance student learning, among other objectives.

The Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO endorsed a total of 23 levies in 12 school districts — and worked actively in targeted districts to coordinate union activity to help levies pass.

Only three of the ballot questions failed to pass.

Across the metro area, Education Minnesota's local teachers' unions partnered

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— LeMoyné Corgard, Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota

with the Building Trades, school parents and community members to pass the levies.

"In my 39 years of union work, I never have seen such a well-orchestrated, collaborative effort from all the labor groups," said LeMoyné Corgard, president of Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota.

"From phone-banking to door-knocking to literature drops, literally going out seven days a week, everybody contributed in many ways."

Anoka-Hennepin (ISD #11)

In the Anoka-Hennepin school district, the largest in the state, voters approved an operating levy with just over 66 percent voting yes and a \$249 million bond levy with nearly 66 percent voting yes.

"In this district, to go with a two-thirds majority, I don't think we've ever passed [a levy] with that support," Corgard said. "I think we had a clear, well-articulated message to the voters. I felt we put out very accurate, honest information so the voters could make a well-informed decision."

Bloomington (ISD #271)

In the Bloomington school district, a \$22.4 million operating levy to continue and increase a current levy passed with more than 69 percent support.

SCHOOL LEVIES page 7

Iowa union members vote 'yes,' stay union

By Mark Gruenberg, PAI staff writer

DES MOINES — When Iowa's ruling Republican legislators jammed through a law requiring most of the state's public worker unions to stand for recertification — by absolute majority votes before they could start bargaining new contracts — they expected state and local workers and teachers would defect in droves.

Whoops.

In reports posted on local union websites — and picked up by former Deputy OSHA Administrator Jordan Barab's "Confined Spaces" blog — the unions rolled to overwhelming wins everywhere in the state.

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