

Political Notebook

Attorney quiet but not shy about planned run for Fresno council seat

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At least one candidate is running for the Fresno City Council seat held by Brian Calhoun. Attorney Andreas Borgeas is campaigning in northwest Fresno's District 2.

Calhoun, who's ineligible to run for re-election because of term limits, is one of the candidates challenging Susan Anderson for her Fresno County supervisor spot.

Borgeas declined to comment about his candidacy Wednesday. He was busy preparing for Thanksgiving, he said.

He will make a formal announcement in coming weeks.

But Borgeas has already set up a Web site for his campaign, [www. BorgeasforFresno.com](http://www.BorgeasforFresno.com). He was handing out business cards for his campaign at an announcement ceremony for Lee Brand, who's running for City Council in neighboring District 6.

A graduate of Georgetown University Law Center, Borgeas has a campaign consultant and has started walking the district to meet voters.

Straw poll win

Ron Paul supporters gave the self-proclaimed "dark horse" candidate a surprise win in the first-ever Fresno County Republican straw poll on Nov. 15.

Paul garnered 35% of the votes in the poll, leading Rudy Giuliani by 2 percentage points and Mitt Romney by 18.

The win was immediately touted on Paul's Web site, www.ronpaul2008.com, and in e-mails from local supporters. Those supporters did not return phone calls for this article.

The event, designed to be an entertaining fundraiser for the local Republican party, let supporters vote for their favorite candidate by buying a ticket. Organizers said that more than 150 attended the event, more than 50 of whom were supporters of Ron Paul.

"We really appreciated their enthusiasm," said Fred Vanderhoof, chairman of the Fresno County Republican Central Committee. "They brought a lot of people, and also donated other money as well."

The win doesn't necessarily signal that Fresno County is "Ron Paul country," said John Pitney, a political science professor at Claremont McKenna College in Southern California.

"Straw polls are absolutely unreliable," Pitney said. "There's no oversight. They can be subject to tampering, or supporters can easily stuff the ballot box."

Pitney said that Paul, who is running what he called a "guerrilla campaign," touts straw poll victories because he doesn't have the resources to match candidates such as Giuliani or Romney.

"One thing straw polls can do is get attention for lesser-known candidates," Pitney said. "Supporters of those candidates have to be unorthodox to get their candidate's name out there."

Four days after announcing the straw poll victory in Fresno, Paul's campaign announced that GQ magazine had named the candidate as one of its men of the year.

The honor?

Paul was selected as the "Dark Horse of the Year."

Swearing in, at last

Amy Shuklian will be sworn in Tuesday evening as the newest member of the Visalia City Council.

It took Tulare County election officials more than a week to count late absentee and provisional ballots from the Nov. 6 election. During that time, just over 100 votes separated Shuklian and Mike Lane for the second of two council seats up for election.

Two-term incumbent Bob Link easily won a third term; he was the top vote-getter by a margin of more than 1,800 votes.

By the time the dust settled and election officials certified the results this week, Shuklian outpolled Lane by 111 votes out of more than 21,000 votes cast.

Link and Shuklian will be sworn in at a ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at Visalia City Hall. Shuklian replaces Greg Kirkpatrick, who was elected in 2003 but opted not to seek a second four-year term; she also becomes the first woman on the City Council since Wendy Rudy resigned for health reasons only a few weeks before the 2003 election.

Visalia council: Who's 'it'?

Also on Tuesday, attention will turn to who will become Visalia's next mayor.

Jesus Gamboa has held the largely ceremonial post -- selected from among the five City

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