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The LEADER

CORNING | NEW YORK

WEDNESDAY | NOVEMBER 7 | 2007

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Reed ousts Coccho

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | Claiming it was a time for a change in Corning City government, newcomer Tom Reed defeated incumbent Mayor Frank Coccho in Tuesday's election.

Reed, a Republican running for public office for the first time, outpaced Coccho 59 percent to 41 percent.

The unofficial tally has Reed winning — 1,825-1,264. Nearly half of the 6,291 registered voters in the city went to the polls.

"I'm extremely grateful to the voters, I'm very happy," said Reed, surrounded by supporters at Cap 'N Morgan's Bar on Bridge Street. "It's been a long road to get here."

Reed, 35, is a Market Street attorney who is also the city's Republican Party chairman. He ran on a platform for change and was critical of Coccho during his campaign for raising taxes 10 percent in two years and not addressing the future needs of the city.

Reed said he will work with the city administration, staff and business and industry leaders to make Corning a better place to live. The Republican mayor-elect received endorsements from three of the four city labor unions going into Tuesday.



Mayor-elect Tom Reed, a Republican, greets supporters at Cap 'N Morgans on Bridge Street.

ERIC WENSEL | THE LEADER

deserves. I wish Tom the best of luck."

Coccho, 63, served as mayor for the past two years and as a city councilman for 20 years.

"I'm not ashamed of anything I've done in the past 22 years, and especially not anything I've done in the past two years," Coccho said. "I love this community, I love my family and I love all of you."

Reed carried each of the city's Southside wards, and the 5th and 8th wards on the city's Northside.

Coccho won his home 6th Ward and the neighboring 7th Ward.

"I'm very saddened I wasn't reelected," Coccho said. "I like representing people. I like making peoples' lives better."

Coccho defeated incumbent Republican Mayor Alan D. Lewis in 2005, becoming the first Democrat to be elected city mayor in more than 50 years.

Tuesday night, Lewis said he is pleased the Republican Party could regain the office.

"I think the voter turnout was a clear indication of the dissatisfaction of the two years of the Coccho administration," Lewis said. "Tom will put our very delightful community back on track."

Former Democrat Councilman Warren Blackwell, Tom



Mayor Frank Coccho concedes defeat as his wife, Betty Coccho, looks on.

JASON COX | THE LEADER

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Council majority shifts to GOP

BY JEFFERY SMITH
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CORNING | There will be a shift of power on the Corning City Council as a result of Tuesday's general election.

Republicans will hold a 5-4 majority on the council thanks to Tom Reed's victory over incumbent Mayor Frank P. Coccho. Democrats held a one seat advantage for much of the past two years.

Councilman Richard Negri, R-4, and Betty Coccho, D-6, were both reelected to four-year terms.

Democrat Lee Welles won the 2nd Ward council seat vacated by Democrat Sundae Grimes-Yates.

Negri, 73, thanked 4th Ward voters for overwhelmingly supporting him in his 236-124 victory over Frank Anastasio.

"I'm excited and happy, I'm looking forward to another four years and working with mayor-elect Tom Reed," Negri said.

The victory was more bittersweet for Betty Coccho, 64, who retained her 6th Ward seat, but watched her husband lose his mayoral race.

Betty Coccho defeated Independent George Spisak, 165-121, according to unofficial results.

"I'm very pleased to win," Betty Coccho said.

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"I'm very saddened I wasn't re-elected. I like representing people. I like making peoples' lives better."

Frank Coccho

"We now have to roll up our sleeves and get to work."

Tom Reed

"We now have to roll up our sleeves and get to work," Reed said.

Moments after conceding the election, Coccho promised a smooth transition in government.

"I called Tom to congratulate him," said Coccho, who gathered with family and friends at the VFW Post 524 on Baker Street. "There will be smooth transition because that's what this community

Fazzary in close court race

BY JOHN ZICK
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ELMIRA | Schuyler County District Attorney Joseph Fazzary remained in the mix for a seat on the state Supreme Court in incomplete results in Tuesday's election.

Six candidates are vying for three seats on the bench that represents the 10-county area of the Sixth Judicial District.

While partial results showed Fazzary, a Republican, battling for the third seat, it appeared Chemung County Public Advocate Richard Rich, a



FAZZARY

were separated by 43 votes with Delaware County yet to report and absentee ballots yet to be counted. Republicans Phillip Rumsey and

Democrat, failed in his bid for the bench.

According to Schuyler County Republican leaders, Fazzary and Democrat Molly Fitzgerald were in a close battle for the third seat late Tuesday. Fazzary and Fitzgerald

SEE FAZZARY | 10A

Crossett joins Legislature

BY MARY PERHAM
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BATH | Larry Crossett has successfully traded one title for another in Steuben County government.

Crossett retired last year as Steuben County treasurer but was elected Tuesday to the Steuben County Legislature.

He defeated Democrat Gary Ostrander, 982-557, for the District 3 seat that represents Bath. Robin Lattimer garnered 321 votes running on the Conservative Party line.

"I want to thank the voters and I will do my best in the next four years to earn the confidence they've put in me," Crossett said.

Ostrander, 63, said he doesn't feel he lost the election.

"It was a learning experience," Ostrander said. "I knew it would be tough going in. I will not give up my agenda."

Crossett, 60, will replace retiring Legislator Ronald Nielsen, R-Bath, one of two legislators from District 3.

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