

# Two keep seats on high school board

The Californian 12:40 a.m. PST November 4, 2015



(Photo: Juan Villa, Juan Villa/The Salinas Californian)

Elections are unpredictable, but usually one person wins. Not so, for Trustee Area 1 of Salinas Union High School District board. At least, not yet.

The final numbers for the election announced incumbents Patty Padilla-Salsberg and Kathryn Ramirez winning their trustee races, but a dead heat locked incumbent Carlos Rubio and challenger John Fickas in Trustee Area 1.

Both Rubio and Fickas received 447 votes. Patty Padilla-Salsberg defeated Raymond Beasley in TA 2 with 68 percent to 32 percent, and Kathryn Ramirez bested John "Tony" Villegas in TA 4 with 55 percent to 45 percent.

The trustee areas have 894, 1,077, and 674 total votes, respectively.

The candidates in TA 1 may have to wait until Monday or later for any additional ballots to be counted.

Earlier in the night, when Rubio trailed, he remained optimistic.

"I just want to wait and see the votes," he said. He pointed out that he trailed Fickas by only 19 votes. By the end of the night, his campaign made up those votes.

Fickas said he hopes the election's final results show the amount of work that his team has mustered for the campaign.

"We've done a lot of walking," he said.

Both men are coaches with experience in educational governance — Rubio on the SUHSD board and Fickas from the Santa Rita Union School District.

Both the Democratic Party and the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO endorsed Rubio. At a forum held on Sept. 30, Rubio said that an effective board member must have an open door policy in communicating with district employees and be willing to carefully read public documents.

Padilla-Salsberg's victory in TA 2 was more straightforward. She received the Democratic endorsement and the same labor backing as Rubio. She has served on the board for two terms and worked as a district employee for 17 years. She says she's "passionate" about her work.

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Patty Padilla-Salsberg, center, reacts after listening to her election results at her home in Salinas on Tuesday. (Photo: Juan Villa, Juan Villa/The Salinas Californian)

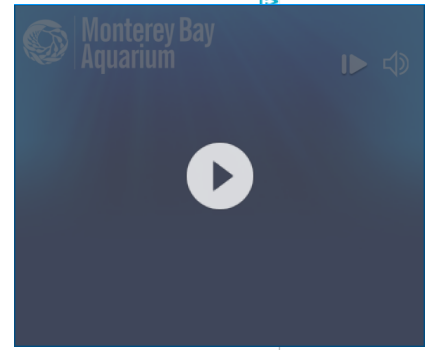
Her challenger, Beasley, advocates for the disabled and promised at the Sept. 30 forum that he knew how to work with boards to "get things done."

Ramirez carried TA 4 decisively as well.

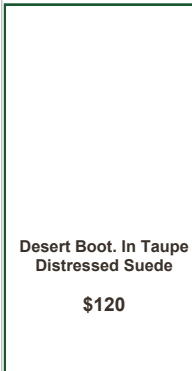
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