



November 23, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Votes Deadlocked for Grundy County Board District 3 Seat
Morris, IL

After a final tally of the mail-in ballots, the race for the third available seat from District 3 for Grundy County Board has ended in a tie. Candidates Brian Severson (R-Dwight) and Jim Ryan (D-Morris) each finished with 3,321 votes.

The winner will be decided by lottery, in accordance with Illinois statute. The lottery will take place on Tuesday November 29th, at 8:30 a.m., in the upstairs courtroom of the Grundy County Courthouse.

“A lottery will be held, and the winner will be determined by a flip of a coin”, said County Clerk Kay Olson. “There will be a clear set of rules, which both candidates will sign off on, one candidate will flip the coin, and the other will call heads or tails.” There was a tied race previously, in 2007, for a 2nd Ward Aldermanic seat for the City of Morris. That tie was also determined by a flip of a coin. “This just goes to show that every vote does indeed count, and how important every vote is, especially in our local elections”, said Olson.

Following election night, Ryan held a 3-vote lead over Severson, 3,307 to 3,304, but there were still several dozen mail ballots outstanding. Illinois election law calls for any votes by mail to be counted provided that they are postmarked by Election Day and arrive at the County Clerk’s office within 14 days of the election. The Re-Tab/Canvass was held Wednesday in the County Clerk’s office, with representatives from both parties on hand.

The top vote getters in District 3 were Harold Vota (R-Coal City) and Ann Gill (D-Coal City), who retain their positions on the board. A total of 9 of the 18 County Board seats were up for election, with incumbents retaining 7 of those seats.

Following final election results, the County Board will hold their reorganization meeting on December 5th at 6 p.m. The reorganization meeting consists of swearing in new members and selecting the Board Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

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