

GENERAL ELECTION CERTIFIED WITH CORRECTED RESULTS

By Assistant Publisher/Editor
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The General Election has come and gone here and Weston County, but not without controversy. That came in the form in incorrect voting counts for Representative Chip Neiman in his uncontested House District 1 race and for the two candidates in the Weston County Commissioners race, Marty Ertman and Ed Wagoner.

These anomalies with the vote count, when addressed with Weston County Clerk Becky Hadlock by Secretary of State Chuck Gray and with the Weston County Commissioners by members of the Weston County Republican Party, resulted in a delay of certifying the election results until they had been counted by hand. After being recounted by hand, the results in those races were found to have been incorrect and the corrected results were certified.

The initial results showed only 166 votes for Representative Neiman and 1,289 undervotes, as well as 2,225 votes for Ertman

and 2,362 votes for Wagoner. The corrected votes, however, were 1,268 votes for Neiman, with 166 undervotes. Ertman actually received 2,163 votes and Wagoner received 2,424. Wyoming Secretary of State Chuck Gray has stated the incorrect results were a direct result of Clerk Hadlock using the incorrect ballots.

Members of the Weston County Republican Party and other concerned citizens attending the meeting of the Weston County Commissioners on Thursday, November 7th, expressed their concerns to County Clerk Hadlock and the County Commissioners.

Chairman Don Taylor began the dialogue by stating that the prior night he had been made aware of anomalies with the election and the results would not be certified until it was investigated.

Walter Sprague, reporter for Newcastle's newspaper, the *News Letter Journal*, was present and inquired why Clerk Hadlock told him there was no issue with

the election when he had raised a concern about the amount of undervotes Neiman received in the results.

"[Secretary Gray] asked me if I felt there was a problem, and I said 'no'," Clerk Hadlock replied.

"When [Secretary Gray] and I discussed it again, we found it was something with the ballot. Nothing malicious occurred. The results will not be certified until it's investigated," she explained, adding, "I have apologized to [Representative Neiman]. He was very understanding."

Clerk Hadlock also took issue with what she stated was a lack of professionalism and misinformation published by the *News Letter Journal*. "You have no problem slandering me on the internet with false information," she accused.

"Did you know there was an issue?" Sprague asked.

"Not at that time. I'm telling you the truth. There was nothing malicious going on. Next time, come to me and get the truth from me," she responded.

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