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## Union-backed aldermanic candidates make strong showing in New Haven (video, with official results)

Published: Wednesday, September 14, 2011

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NEW HAVEN — Union-backed aldermanic candidates were overwhelmingly victorious in Tuesday's Democratic primary, knocking out incumbent heavyweights and securing a strong presence on the board.

In the 16 wards where aldermanic primaries took place, [union-backed candidates](#) took 14 seats, according to unofficial results that did not include absentee ballots. (see unofficial results below)

The candidates [on the union slate](#) received large financial backing from both Unite Here Locals 34 and 35 and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. That investment appeared to pay off Tuesday, knocking out such veteran incumbents as aldermanic President Carl Goldfield, D-29, and Charles Blango, D-20.

Mayor John DeStefano Jr. Tuesday congratulated the unions on their win and said he is ready to work with the new board.

"A lot of new people won their place on that table and their voice needs and deserves to be heard," he said, adding the unions did a great job talking to voters and organizing.

Some of the candidates who lost already qualified to appear on the November ballot as independent candidates, so the heated campaigning of the past few months will likely continue until the general election Nov. 8.

Incumbent aldermen knocked out of the race, and their seats, include Goldfield, Blango, Stephanie Bauer in Ward 14, Greg Morehead in Ward 22 and Marcus Paca in Ward 24. Aldermen Matt Smith, D-9, and Darnell Goldson, D-30, were defeated in the primary, but will appear on the ballot in November as independent candidates.

The unions threw a spirited after-party at Leon's on Long Wharf Drive, where candidates and their supporters celebrated their hard-fought victory. Gwen Mills, political field director for Unite Here Locals 34 and 35, said the union victories are a sign of New Haven residents wanting change in leadership.

"I believe the candidates that were running for office are ready to challenge the status quo," she said.

Mills gave the example of Brenda Jones Barnes, who ran against two opponents in Fair Have Heights' Ward 13, and highlighted neighborhood issues such as construction plans for the Grand Avenue Bridge in her campaign. Jones Barnes said Tuesday that people in her ward responded to her focus on real issues.

"I know that we are connected. We are partnered together and we are moving forward," she said.

AFSCME Council 4 representative Matthew Brokman said in a statement the victory is a clear message from residents that "we need to work together to put our city back on track."

"We contacted thousands of our neighbors and friends by going door-to-door and sending over 15,000 mail pieces," he said in the statement.

Alderwoman Dolores Colon retained her seat in Ward 6 against a challenge by Norma Rodriguez-Reyes and said she reads the election results as a mandate for change in New Haven.

"I think the community has spoken," she said. "In New Haven, big business keeps getting bigger and poor people keep getting poorer," she said.

The winning candidates are marked with an asterisk: Ward 2 – Doug Bethea, Frank Douglass\*; Ward 3 – Jacqueline James-Evans\*, Abdias Rodriguez; Ward 6 – Dolores Colon\*, Norma Rodriguez-Reyes; Ward 9 – Matt Smith, Jessica Holmes\*; Ward 13 – David Baker, Brenda Jones Barnes\*, Josue Vega; Ward 14 – Stephanie Bauer, Gabriel Santiago\*; Ward 18 – Salvatore Decola\*, Sarah Saiano; Ward 20 – Charles Blango, Delphine Clyburn\*; Ward 21 – Moses Nelson, Brenda Foskey-Cyrus\*; Ward 22 – Greg Morehead, Lisa Hopkins, Jeanette Morrison\*, Cordelia Thorpe; Ward 24 – Marcus Paca, Evette Hamilton\*; Ward 25 – Mike Slattery, Adam Marchand\*; Ward 27 – Stan Kontogiannis, Angela Russell\*; Ward 28 – Claudette Robinson-Thorpe\*, Wayne McCloud; Ward 29 – Carl Goldfield, Brian Wingate\*; Ward 30 – Darnell Goldson, Carlton Staggers\*.

Candidates who will appear on the ballot in November as independents include Bethea – 2, Rodriguez-Reyes – 6, Smith – 9, Saiano – 18, Hopkins and Thorpe – 22, McCloud- 28, and Goldson – 30.

In many of the wards, candidates got to the polls early and camped out front for most of the day, greeting voters and making last-minute pleas for support. Voters who came out said they were drawn to the polls over concerns about crime, schools and taxes.

Lynn Coville voted in Ward 6 and called this a very important race.

"It's good to have people challenging," she said. "It keeps people on their toes."

For Alondra De Leon, who just became a U.S. citizen in April, the primary was a chance to have a voice in local governance, especially with issues like public safety and schools on the table.

“You can’t really voice an opinion unless you have casted it on the ballot,” she said.

**Unofficial results' without absentee ballots:**

Ward 2 – Doug Bethea - 172 Frank Douglass - 350

Ward 3 – Jacqueline James-Evans - 239 Abdias Rodriguez - 45

Ward 6 – Dolores Colon - 265 Norma Rodriguez-Reyes - 157

Ward 9 – Matt Smith - 305 Jessica Holmes - 438

Ward 13 – David Baker - 100 Brenda Jones Barnes - 347 Josue Vega - 158

Ward 14 – Stephanie Bauer - 154 Gabriel Santiago - 346

Ward 18 – Salvatore Decola 342 Sarah Saiano - 238

Ward 20 – Charles Blango - 271 Delphine Clyburn - 394

Ward 21 – Moses Nelson - 155 Brenda Foskey-Cyrus - 345

Ward 22 – Greg Morehead - 165 Lisa Hopkins - 125 Jeanette Morrison -

355 Cordelia Thorpe - 4

Ward 24 – Marcus Paca - 228 Evette Hamilton - 312

Ward 25 – Mike Slattery - 422 Adam Marchand - 446

Ward 27 – Stan Kontogiannis - 123 Angela Russell - 426

Ward 28 – Claudette Robinson-Thorpe - 377 Wayne McCloud - 123

Ward 29 – Carl Goldfield -n/a Brian Wingate - n/a

Ward 30 – Darnell Goldson -n/a Carlton Staggers - n/a

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