

DONNA LACESLIN NEW BALDWIN MAYOR; TONY THIBODEAUX IS DIVISION A JUDGE

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Donna Lanceslin is the new Mayor of Baldwin and Anthony "Tony" Thibodaux will take the bench for the 16th Judicial District Judge in Division A.

Lanceslin won by 50.33 percent Tuesday, or 539 votes. She won against candidates Michael "Mike" Lancelin, a longtime town alderman, with 19.7 percent or 211 votes and Benny J. Druilhet with 29.97 percent or 321 votes.

Lanceslin, a former St. Mary Parish School teacher, will be Baldwin's first female mayor.

In the Baldwin race for aldermen, incumbents Margaret "Faye" Coleman (17.23 percent), Gene St. Germain (16.95 percent), Thor Frederick (15.65 percent) and Clarence Vappie (15.85 percent) all returned to office. Herbert "HB" Bell (14.07 percent) was elected to fill the seat left behind by Michael Lancelin.

Baldwin voters will return to the voting booth Dec. 6 to choose a police chief between Harry "Boo Boo" Smith who won 49.53 percent or 523 votes, against Albert "Al" Thibodaux with 23.39 percent and 247 votes. Attorney Anthony Thibodeaux of Morgan City defeated Dean M. Wattigny of New Iberia for the Div. A bench.

Thibodeaux scored 52.45 of the vote in the entire district to Wattigny's 47.55 percent. In St. Mary, Thibodeaux won 60.92 percent, 7,658 votes, and Wattigny took 39.08 percent, 4,912 votes.

District Judge Division G candidates Lucretia Pecantte and Curtis Sigur will also face a runoff in December. Pecantte took 42.24 percent, or 4,844, of the vote, and Sigur took 41.94 percent, or 4,810 votes. Both are from New Iberia.

St. Mary Parish voters gave 77.02 percent, 2,165 votes, to Sigur and 16.33 percent, 459 votes, to Pecantte. Judge Lori Landry retained her seat in Division H, taking 60.06 percent of the vote in St. Mary and 57.1 percent in the district. One race from the Tuesday election remains unsettled.

Both Nekesia J. Bowie and Virginia Sutton received 205 votes in the Justice of the Peace Ward 7 vote. Registrar of Voters Jolene Holcombe said this morning that it is unclear how such a situation will be addressed.

Mayor Lanceslin is a Louisiana native born to Lawrence and Alberta Lewis. She is married to Joseph Lanceslin.