

Swearingin faced long odds in controller's race



POLITICAL NOTEBOOK

Posted by George Hostetter on January 9, 2015

Republican Ashley Swearingin didn't beat Democrat Betty Yee in the Nov. 4 state controller's race.

But all things considered, Fresno's mayor turned in a strong effort.

Swearingin finished with 3,249,668 votes (46%) compared to Yee's 3,810,304 (54%).

These numbers come from the California Secretary of State's official canvass of returns, called the Statement of Vote

"It's really humbling to be on the ballot and have well over three million people vote to hire you for a job," Swearingin said.

The effort came up short, Swearingin said, but "I'm honored and humbled" by the public's response to her candidacy.

Swearingin said she's been told by number-crunchers that she was among the handful of Republican candidates nationwide with the highest vote totals on Nov. 4.

Swearingin had the highest vote totals in 37 of 58 counties. She won several of the most populous counties, including Orange (62%), San Diego (53.3%) and Fresno (58.5%).

Yee pulled away in the urban areas. Her statewide margin of victory was 560,636 votes. She beat Swearingin by a total of 623,157 votes just in Los Angeles, Alameda and San Francisco counties.

According to the Statement of Vote, there were 7.7 million registered Democrats and 5 million registered Republicans as of Oct. 20. Democrats accounted for 43.3% of registered voters compared to 28.1% for Republicans. The other registered voters belonged to other parties or had no party preference.

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