High School Bond Leads After Tuesday Vote

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Jay Barrett/KMXT

It looks like there will be an expanded and renovated high school in Kodiak's future. The bond measure to fund it is holding a moderate lead after yesterday's elections.

Proposition 1, which would authorize the Kodiak Island Borough to sell up to 76-million-dollars in bonds to finance the expansion, reconstruction and renovation of Kodiak High School was passing by a margin of 167 votes. The unofficial tally shows 1,128 Yes votes to 961 No votes. However, there are 201 absentee ballots and an unknown number of questioned ballots still outstanding, which could swing the outcome.

Meanwhile, Proposition 2, which would have authorized the sale of 12-point-5-million in additional bonds for renovation work on school and borough buildings, is failing with 1,091 No votes to 905 Yes votes, a margin of 186.

Speaking of schools, the only two candidates for the board of education were incumbents, and both ran unopposed. Norm Wooten received 1,528 votes, and Petal Ruch received 1,404.

On the Assembly, the two incumbents are comfortably ahead, though one is being challenged. Chris Lynch seems on her way to re-election with 1,105 votes, while fellow incumbent Jerrol Friend has 922. But just 114 votes behind him is challenger Dave King with 808 votes, well within the number of votes that have yet to be counted. Steve Branson has 681 votes. The top two vote-getters will be seated to three-year terms.

The election will be certified after absentee and questioned ballots are counted.

School Superintendant Stuart McDonald said he is feeling good about the result, but is also taking note of the vote's close margin:

-- (spread 29 sec "It communicates there ... addressing everybody's needs.")

He went on to say that district staff will continue to try to find alternate sources of funding for the high school project:

-- (Look for more 25 sec "When it comes to ... cost effective as possible.")

Bob Brodie, who helped spearhead the push to pass Proposition 1, said he was feeling fairly confident:

-- (bob confident 32 sec "I went into the day ... Alaska, to tell you the truth.")