

Henry easily wins, ready to face Kelty

Considered the Democratic frontrunner, he didn't spend much money in primary.

By Kathleen Quilligan
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Democratic mayoral candidate Tom Henry received a rock-star welcome as he approached Allen County Democratic Party headquarters Tuesday night. He entered the building to the party faithful chanting "Go, Tom, Go," flashed the victory sign to the crowd and said, "Looks like I'm doing pretty good."

And he did.

It was no surprise to anyone that Henry, a city councilman for 20 years, easily won the party's mayoral nomination. Allen County Democratic Chair Kevin Knuth said he was ready to call the race at 6:01 p.m. The polls closed at 6 p.m.

Neither of Henry's opponents – Tom Cook nor Frederick Steinke – made an appearance at Democratic headquarters election night.

"My real interest is in the other side," Henry said, referring to the Republican primary in which Matt Kelty edged out Nelson Peters.

Knuth said Henry won't set his campaign based on who won the Republican primary; instead, he said, it will be up to Kelty how to run against Henry.

Henry acknowledged this victory is just the beginning. Considered his party's frontrunner ever since he filed, his campaign to this point has not spent a lot of its money, knowing the November election will be an expensive race.

Henry said residents should expect to see more of him in the future as he outlines his platform and which of Mayor Graham Richard's goals he will continue to pursue.

Richard, a Democrat, announced in October he would not seek a third term.

While there had been murmurings that some Democrats would vote in the Republican primary, in a crossover or strategic vote, Knuth said the party did not support such action.

He said the low voter turnout – about 13 percent of all registered voters – means the Republican primary did not create the energy initially expected.

"That does not bode well for that party," Knuth said.

Politics aside, Henry said he believes Kelty is an honorable man and is ready for the campaign ahead, a campaign Henry won't start today.

"All of us are going to take a few days off. Then my opponent ... he and I will crank it up as we head into our campaigns."

Tom C. Henry

Age: 55

Education: University of Saint Francis, bachelor of science and master's degrees

Occupation: President, The Gallant Group (insurance agency)

Family: Married with two children

Voter turnout

The Allen County Election Board reported this morning that 26,331 people, or 13 percent of registered active voters, cast ballots in Tuesday's elections. That number includes eight precincts that previously had not reported numbers because of poll worker errors with tally cards in the machines. The machines were backed up and the votes counted.

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