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Amarillo Votes for Progress

Spring 2011 Election Affirms Downtown Redevelopment

Dateline: Amarillo, May 15, 2011 — Downtown Amarillo, Inc (DAI) today congratulated Amarillo’s incoming Mayor and Commissioners, and celebrated the resounding public support for issues that position Amarillo to move forward, including downtown redevelopment. Significant margins of victory were awarded to incoming Mayor Paul Harpole, and incoming Commissioners: incumbents Brian Eades and Jim Simms, and newly elected Commissioners Ellen Robertson Green and Lilia B. Escajeda.

“This is a banner day for the future of Amarillo,” said DAI Executive Director Melissa Dailey. “Voters rejected the divisive wedge issue ballot items and reaffirmed downtown redevelopment by a margin of greater than two-to-one.”

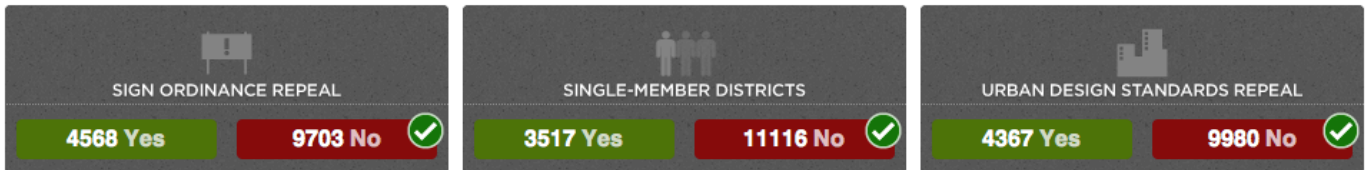
With 60 of 60 precincts reporting, the races for Commissioner and Mayor were called Saturday night, as were the ballot measures. All three ballot initiatives were rejected by decisive majorities, thereby upholding the lawful downtown urban design standards and sign ordinance, and maintaining the current tradition of all Amarillo voters electing all the commissioners.

“Downtown is the heart of Amarillo,” said Dailey. “In this election, the people of Amarillo stood up and were counted in support of progress towards a better future. DAI is grateful for the widespread public support for downtown redevelopment, and we look forward to working with Amarillo’s new Mayor and City Commissioners.”

“Our elections are a sacred trust,” said DAI Board Member John Lutz. “All sides made their appeals in the public square. Neighbors joined together to listen, weigh the information, and cast their votes. Now is the time when we move forward with unity; the people have spoken.”

For more information about Downtown Amarillo and the public redevelopment process, and to provide feedback, please explore the resources online at www.downtownamarillo.com.

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*A super-majority of Amarilloans rejected the initiatives which had been put on the ballot by a small group’s signature drive. By rejecting the ballot measures, Amarillo voted to keep the urban design standards, the sign ordinance, and the longstanding tradition of civic elections.
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