

Richmond City Council gets infusion of new blood

By **ROBERT ZULLO** Richmond Times-Dispatch | Posted: Tuesday, November 8, 2016 11:45 pm

Richmond City Council, which saw only three of nine seats turn over four years ago, will get a slightly bigger infusion of new blood come January.

Four newcomers will replace incumbents who are stepping down, though five veteran council members appear to have kept their seats, according to incomplete and unofficial results from today's election. The following results do not include absentee ballots.

1st District

With all precincts reporting but absentee ballots not yet in, former city management analyst Andreas D. Addison had a roughly 300-vote lead after a neck-and-neck race with former Army attack helicopter pilot and nonprofit consultant Harry H. Warner Jr. for the seat representing the West End. Incumbent Jonathan Baliles vacated the seat to run for mayor before dropping out. Jonathan M. Cruise, an IT consultant was far behind.

2nd District

Two-term Richmond School Board Member Kimberly B. Gray appears to have won a closely-fought contest with A.S. "Charlie" Diradour, a real estate developer who narrowly lost to incumbent Charles Samuels in 2012, for the seat representing much of the Fan, Scott's Addition, Jackson Ward and other areas. Rebecca Keel, a 24-year-old conflict resolution trainer, was a very distant third. Samuels opted not to seek re-election.

"I haven't slept for two days, literally. I worked very hard out there," Gray said, who was holding a 1,300-vote lead with all precincts in. "I'm looking forward to working with everyone in the district and doing my best to make the 2nd District proud."

3rd District

Incumbent Chris A. Hilbert, who has been on the council 12 years, appeared headed for his fifth term to represent the North Side district, with an overwhelming lead over Milondra Coleman, an instructional coordinator and history teacher at Richmond Public Schools who was running in second place. Dorian Daniels, a self-employed convenience store operator and Hassan J. Fountain, an operator for Coca-Cola Bottling Co., trailed well behind. Hilbert is a loan officer at the Virginia Housing Development Authority.



Richmond City Hall

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“I think folks told me loud and clear that they’re not looking for the next event to come to town,” Hilbert said.” They really want us to concentrate on sidewalk, streets and potholes and those kinds of things.”

4th District

Kristen Larson, who has served one term on the Richmond School Board, appeared to have bested four challengers to replace Kathy Graziano, the four-term councilwoman who opted not to see re-election for the seat representing the neighborhoods of Stratford Hills, Westover Hills and Stony Point, among others. She comfortably led Tim Grimes, Graziano’s liaison; Larry A. Olanrewaju, an economics professor; Jeff Thomas, an author; and Johnny Walker, a retired director of telecommunications.

5th District

Parker Agelasto, 40, who won his first term on the council four years ago by unseating incumbent Marty Jewell, held a big lead over two challengers: Montigue Magruder, a worker at an assisted living facility, and Garrett L. Sawyer, a senior recruiter at True Health Diagnostics. One precinct was still out.

6th District

With all precincts in, Ellen Robertson, who has represented the district, which includes parts of North Side, downtown and Manchester, since 2003, held a comfortable lead over Donald Moss, a political and nonprofits consultant who nabbed two high-profile endorsements from groups in the city. Several precincts had not yet reported in the race.

7th District

Cynthia Newbille, a program officer and medical home coordinator at Richmond Memorial Health Foundation, strongly defended her seat representing the East End, fending off a challenge from Josh Williams, a 29-year-old business owner and member of the National Guard, to secure her third term on the council by a wide margin.

8th District

Council veteran Reva M. Trammell appeared headed to her sixth term representing the South Side district, which includes the Jefferson Davis Highway corridor, with a commanding lead over Amelia E. Lightner, a retiree who served as president of two neighborhood civic associations and won the endorsement of the city Democratic committee. Trammell was first elected to the council in 1998, when council members served two-year terms. She hasn’t lost an election since 2004.

9th District

Michael J. Jones, a 49-year-old pastor at Village of Faith Church, which has campuses in Sandston and Midlothian, appeared poised to take the seat representing the southwestern Richmond district being vacated by Michelle Mosby, who ran for mayor. With all precincts in, Jones had a large lead in a field that also included Leon Benjamin Sr., another church pastor and bishop; Germika Pegram, a clinician policy consultant; and Marcus Omar Squires, a paralegal and instructional assistant.