

# The Stuart News

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THE FIRST HISPANIC to reach the governor's mansion, Republican Bob Martinez, right, sweeps past Harvard Law School grad Steve Pajcic.

## GRAHAM WINS

Governor, Senate, other races, A4



Photographer: DALE A. DUNAWAY

Incumbent Martin Commissioner Maggy Hurchalla, right, hugs her mother Jane Wood Reno.

## Maggy in for 4th term

By Edward Filo  
News staff writer

STUART — Martin County Commissioner Maggy Hurchalla won her fourth term in office Tuesday night, defeating Republican challenger Mike Luce in the most hotly contested local race this year.

Hurchalla, a Democrat, picked up 17,695 votes to Luce's 14,513 — 55 percent to 45 percent — to retain her District 4 seat.

"I feel wonderful. In fact, I feel great," said Hurchalla, who shunned the election hoopla to spend the night watching returns with family and friends at her Rocky Point home.

Hurchalla said her immediate plan is to go to an island in the Caribbean with her husband Jim and "soak in about 40 feet of beautiful, blue water."

Luce, owner of an ornamental flower farm and former Stuart city commissioner, appeared a little strained as he shook hands with well-wishers and party members at the GOP-sponsored party at the Bed & Breakfast Hotel.

"I could feel better, but I guess I won't," Luce said as he watched the vote gap between himself and Hurchalla grow during the evening.

He declined to speculate on his political future or if he would try again for another office.

"Right now I intend to relax and think about it. For now, it's back to the farm," he said.

The GOP party, although noisy, was dampened by Luce's loss. Republicans walked around shaking their heads saying they couldn't believe Hurchalla had won another election.

Hurchalla captured 21 of the county's 28 voting precincts including two of the three main precincts in District 2.

"I didn't think it would be this much of a margin," Luce said. "I tried to ask myself if I would do anything different the last couple of days, but I don't think I would have."

Hurchalla, 45, said county voters proved that they vote the issue and the candidate, not the party. The county has 28,188 Republican voters compared to 17,759 Democrats. And while local Republicans voted heavily for GOP gubernatorial candidate Bob Martinez, they ignored party loyalties to cast votes for Hurchalla.

"They didn't vote along party lines and they made up

## Minor woes delay local returns

By Emily J. Smith  
Port St. Lucie News chief

Mispunched ballots in St. Lucie County and an unplugged printer in Martin County delayed local returns Tuesday.

But election supervisors from the two counties — both dressed in red, white and blue — took a big sigh about midnight and patted themselves on the backs.

"I'm just glad the day is over," said Gertrude Walker, St. Lucie County supervisor of elections. "I'm not disappointed. I'm really happy."

Walker, and Peggy Robbins, her Martin counterpart, said that all things considered,

the day had gone well.

About 11 p.m. a slight panic hit the Martin return headquarters at the County Administrative Center when the printer that produces the final tally of votes quit working.

It was unplugged.

"You never look for the obvious," said Robbins with a laugh. "I thought there was a real problem until someone walked over and said 'Look at this.'"

Another delay in the final Martin tally was Precinct 20, one of the county's larger precincts and traditionally a problem, Robbins said.

The precinct, which votes at Ridgeway

Mobile Home Park in Hobe Sound, has 11 voting machines. Tuesday, more than 2,000 voters cast ballots there. Tallying the results slowed things down.

Votes from all 28 of the county's precincts were finished about 11:20 p.m., about an hour behind schedule.

Throughout the evening, results streamed into Martin's Republican Headquarters at the Bed & Breakfast Hotel on U.S. 1. Republicans had party members at each precinct to call results into headquarters.

Please see **ELECTIONS** on A3

Please see **MAGGY** on A3