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Wipeout losses on far left, far right; big win for Justice Madsen

BY JOEL CONNELLY, SEATTLEPI.COM STAFF Updated 11:18 pm, Tuesday, August 2, 2016

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Chief Justice Barbara Madsen of the Washington State Supreme Court: Under fire from the right, she piles up more than 64 percent of the primary vote.

The 42nd, 44th and 21st District Democrats, along with the San Juan County Democrats, backed Everett coffee shop owner and anti-coal train protester Mike Lapointe against eight-term U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen. The Whatcom County Democrats did not endorse in the 2nd Congressional District race.

The result: Lapointe, who likened Clinton to Judas Iscariot on his Facebook page, was getting 9.67 percent of the vote on Tuesday night.

Larsen was far ahead with 52.92 percent of the total vote, headed for a November contest with Republican Mark Hennemann.

The far-left, particularly in the Bellingham area, has been on Larsen's case for years -- and has gone to extremes of foolishness. They even booed Larsen at a Whatcom County Courthouse forum five days before the congressman voted AGAINST Congress' Iraq War authorization.

In the 9th District, the dean of Washington's delegation -- 10-term Democratic U.S. Rep. Adam Smith -- faced a challenge by onetime state Rep. Jesse Wineberry.

Wineberry played the race card as he once did in Olympia, saying the minority-majority district had the opportunity to elect "Washington's first Democrat of color to Congress." (Pramila Jayapal may get that honor.) Wineberry also ran as an "early Bernie Sanders supporter."

Smith wiped the floor with him, garnering 56.79 percent of the vote to just 12.97 for Wineberry. Smith will face Republican Doug Basler in November: Basler received about a quarter of the 9th District vote.

U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, an establishment Republican from the Yakima Valley, had to come from behind in 2014 to defeat Tea Party GOP hopeful Clint Didier. A onetime Washington Redskins tight end, the Eltopia farmer had previously run for U.S. Senate and state lands commissioner.

Newhouse is doing a lot better this year. He ran 20 points ahead of Didier on Tuesday night, although the 4th District of Central Washington will likely see an all-Republican runoff in November.

Chief Justice Barbara Madsen received more than 64 percent of the vote in her primary contest with Republican Kittitas County Prosecutor Greg Zempel.

Madsen has been under attack from the right. A campaign financed by Camas billionaire Ken Fisher -- a sugar daddy of Tim Eyman's initiative campaigns -- spent more than \$100,000 on anti-Madsen radio ads. A pro-charter schools group, Stand for Children, mounted a campaign against her.

State Rep. Matt Manweller, R-Ellensburg, tweeted such charges as: "Is the Washington Supreme Court blackmailing W voters into adopting an income tax?" He was referring to the Supreme Court's order that the state fully fund K-12 education.

The voters spoke on Tuesday night. Madsen had 439,774 votes or 64.28 percent, Zempel only 199,517 or 29.16 percent.

Ideological attacks on Washington State Supreme Court justices almost never work.

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