

Historically Springfield has a low turnout in a preliminary election. I usually do better in a general election. For the first time Springfield is on a partial ward representation system for the city council. I ran from Ward 2 to try to avoid a preliminary election. But 4 other people ran. 3 of them were insiders, though they do not portray themselves as such.

The situation was complicated by the death of Senator Kennedy. It was difficult to get people to pay attention to local elections.

Once again most of the signatures on my nomination form were from Democrats and Un-enrolled made up most of the signatures. Voters of Puerto Rican ancestry seemed to make up most of my signatures. Notice that there are 23 Libertarians in the Ward. The two who signed my form were my wife and I. Most un-enrolled voters will not sign a nomination form.

On the local forums one never knows how many of the posters are groupies of the inside candidates. I tended to be specific on what I would do, yet postings kept appearing saying that I was not specific. The "insiders" ran on generalities, making promises that a city government cannot do, such as getting tough on crime. All cities do is hire police, if they have the money to do it, which we do not. One cannot get signatures without going door to door, But with 10,000 registered voters one cannot get to them all. And only 10% will vote, how do you know which ones on which to spend time?

I got 1%, or 16 votes. So the registered Libertarians, by and large did not support their party at the polls. I did get some hate mail from people who said they were libertarians. Apparently they owned some import business where they imported goods from slave labor countries and sold them here, where they enjoyed government services which were not available to the people who made their goods.

I miscalculated in that I ran in a Ward to avoid a preliminary election, which I would have avoided had I run at large. The proponents of ward representation were predicting great changes. There may be some changes in the ethnic make up. But they all had the same platform, more police, more laws etc.

The proponents of Ward Representation argued that Ward Representation would get more voter participation. That simply did not materialize, and the proponents are now making excuses saying that it resulted in a more diversified city council. How do you measure diversity? Most are Democrats who will seek to please the same Democratic leadership in the state. Their platforms were virtually identical, hire more cops to keep us safe, safe schools etc. etc. It seemed they were promising anything to get elected. Tend to not make promises that I do not think I can keep. The harsh reality is that with the city's finances and the state's declining aid to cities, the outlook for

most of the promises is dismal at best.

Most of the winners favor citizen disarmament

(Thanks NRA and GOAL for giving them a free ride)

The all favor more cops at the taxpayer's expense but would do nothing to make the courts work.

They favor increasing the fine for Marijuana possession ( thanks MassCann)

At least one favors allowing marshal law in the event of a flue epidemic

And of course they all favor free trade agreements and then will publically lament the city's unemployment rate.

The Media:

The Springfield Republican carried stories for about 3 days quoting officials who were predicting a low turnout. They then spend another three days writing about the low turnout. They only story they carried with information was a list of the candidates, no platforms, just a list. Most of their space was used to cover the death of Senator Kennedy.

The Springfield Reminder, a free to the reader weekly, had an excellent story on the preliminary election in which all of the positions of the candidates was described. I was asked to send in something, and they carried it all, they printed my URL, I was not misquoted. There is still a stack of them in the store where I buy my newspaper. Yet the day before the election people were posting on MassLive's Springfield forum saying that they did not know the position of the candidates.

Blogger Tome Devine told people to vote against me because "he gives Libertarians a bad name." Devine has a half naked picture of himself on Facebook. He told people to vote to legalize marijuana. He then supported people who will raise the fines for it locally. I am not sure whether he helped me or hurt me. He like cops and Republicans.

Ward 2 did not have any candidates functions nor debates, as some other wards had. However in the past the only people who attended them were groupies of the various candidates. Usually the media would devote all of the time to the mayor's race. If a mayoral candidate came he would be given a half hour. The city council candidates would be given 2 minutes to talk. They would usually be ignored by the media.

Signatures by Party

Democrat	97
Libertarian	2
Republican	14
Un-enrolled	39

Registered Voters in Ward 2 by Party

D	Democrat	5417
G	Green Party USA	2
J	Green Rainbow	15
L	Libertarian	23
P	Prohibition Party	1
R	Republican	753
T	Interdependent Third Party	1
U	Un-enrolled	3288
Z	(No description)	31

Registered Voters in Ward 2 by Precinct

2 A	1,044
2 B	1,233
2 C	1,071
2 D	1,231
2 E	1,306
2 F	1,144
2 G	1,308
2 H	1,194
total	9,531
Ballots cast	1.339

Springfield Ward 2 Results

Michael Fenton:	481	A past chief of police was named Fenton
Gil Perron:	174	Served on various commissions
Thomas Sullivan:	554	Nephew of former mayor
Robert Underwood	16	
Hamilton Wray	111	Active in NAACP

From the Springfield Republican

### Voters Stay Home

The following chart shows the voter turnout at the most recent municipal elections in Springfield.

#### Preliminary elections (September)

Year	Ballots cast	Percent turnout
2009	6,340	9.5
2007	5,264	8
2005	No preliminary	
2003	10,703	13
2001	18,201	23

#### City elections (November)

Year	Ballots cast	Percent turnout
2007	21,548	28
2005	22,856	27
2003	28,769	34
2001	34,142	42

### Ward vote

For the Springfield preliminary: The City Council and School Committee races drew a 9.5 percent voter turnout citywide Tuesday, with 6,340 of 66,770 registered voters going to the polls. The results by ward:

Area	Ballots cast	Percentage of votes
Ward 2	1,339	11.5
Ward 4	482	5
Ward 5	953	8.1
Ward 6	1,181	10.6
Ward 7	1,700	14.6
Ward 8	685	6.3