

Stuehrenberg, Edwards in county board race

By Dan Linehan

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MANKATO — Vance Stuehrenberg secured nearly half the votes in a four-way contest for Blue Earth County's 2nd District seat, and will face second-place finisher Reggie Edwards in the general election.

Stuehrenberg received 569 votes, or 48 percent of the total, while Edwards took 240 votes, or 20 percent.

Stuehrenberg, a retired police officer, called his competitor "a smart individual" and said he won't rest on his impressive margin of victory. He plans to emphasize his message of communication with constituents.

"That's what I'm about, talking to the people. That's the message I have to get out," he said.

Edwards, executive director of the Region Nine Development Commission, said he advanced out of the primary by holding gatherings in the neighborhood and making as many voter impressions as possible.

"We knew it was going to be a challenge with name recognition," Edwards said.

Steve Meyer received 196 votes and Robert Finley had 193, a combined total of about 32 percent.

In the next few months, Edwards said he plans to stress his experience in cities and counties across the country, his campaign themes of innovation, participation and collaboration as well as more voter outreach.

Stuehrenberg performed exceptionally well in the 7th Precinct, where he has lived for about a decade. He beat Edwards by a margin of more than 3.5 to 1 in this precinct.

Stuehrenberg said he views the County Board position as a full-time job preceded by the campaign, essentially a "five-monthlong job interview."

He plans to finish like he started, by continuing to knock on doors.

Stuehrenberg served a single four-year term on the City Council.



Pat Christman

Jim Rife votes in Tuesday's primary election at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mankato. In the city of Mankato, Eric Anderson and John Brady advanced out of the mayoral primary while Karen Foreman and Najwa Massad emerged from a four-person field in the 1st Ward.



Vance Stuehrenberg (left) and Reggie Edwards will compete in November's general election for the District 1 Blue Earth County Board seat.