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GOP's McNally Wins First Selectman Race, Republicans Win Board of Ed Seats

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Categories : [Government & Politics](#)

Tagged as : [Board of Education Election 2021](#), [Darien Elections 2021](#), [First Selectman Election 2021](#)

Date : November 2, 2021

Although official vote totals from the Darien Registrars of Voters Office were not available Tuesday evening, joyful Republicans said they won the first selectman race and the contest for Board of Education seats.

A dejected official in the town Democratic Party said the same.

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson [tweeted that](#) Monica McNally, the GOP candidate to replace her, had "won in a landslide."

Susan Gray, the Democratic registrar of voters said absentee ballots were not expected to be counted until Wednesday morning.

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A town Democratic Party official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the returns his party gathered from polling places showed Republicans had the election well in hand, with all contested races going to the GOP.

The official said the vote totals from the voting districts gave the Republican candidates enough votes that the absentee votes wouldn't change any races.

At the bar of The Goose restaurant downtown, Republicans jammed in the bar. A Darienite.com reporter at the scene saw David Brown, a candidate for re-election to the Board of Education, standing on the bar telling the crowd that despite attacks from Democrats during the campaign, "just look at the results." The crowd cheered.

[Editor's note: That was me at the bar. I started wading into the wall of people, but then realized that I hadn't been in a crowd packed that tightly since before COVID-19, and I need my third (booster) shot, so I left. The Democratic election night party at Louie's, down the street didn't look safe for someone who needs a booster shot, either. So, along with the vote totals, you won't get much of the "color" just yet.]

Brown had been harshly criticized by some Democrats who called the way he had held his fingers during the League of Women Voters debate — with thumb touching the end of his index finger in a sign that looked like an "OK" gesture — a sign of white supremacists.

During the campaign, Brown issued a statement which didn't directly deny that, although he vociferously condemned Democrats who accused him of using a white supremacist sign. The Darien Republican Town Committee also issued a statement condemning Democrats for making the accusations.