

This is Casey Dolan with local news for Wednesday, November 9, 2022 on KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington.

Yesterday's midterm elections provided a stunning rebuke of an anticipated red wave and of Donald Trump and Trumpism. Several races continue to be in the balance to ultimately determine which party should have control of the House, the Senate, or both, but Democrats managed to hold many of their seats, thanks in part to a large voter turnout, always favoring Democrats, and the hot-button issue of abortion rights which found appeal across the aisle.

In the races that are closer to home:

- Democrat incumbents for the State Legislature District 24, Steve Tharinger and Mike Chapman, each kept their positions. Tharinger defeated Republican challenger Sue Forde, 30,398 votes (or 60%) to Forde's 20,768 votes (or 41%). Chapman defeated Republican Brian Pruiett 29,773 votes (or 58%) to Pruiett's 21,175 votes (or 42%).
- Democrat Greg Brotherton handily defeated Republican Marcia Kelbon in the race for County Commissioner, District 3, 10,451 votes to 4,881 (or 68% to 32%).
- Joe Nole retained his position as sheriff by defeating challenger Art Frank 9,721 votes to 4,525 (or 68% to 32%).
- Both Washington Advisory Votes to increase taxes on aircraft fuel and ride share companies were repealed.
- Proposition 1 on merging Port Ludlow Fire and Rescue with East Jefferson Fire Rescue was passed.
- Democrat Patty Murray retained her office in a victory over challenger Tiffany Smiley for US Senator for Washington with 57% of the vote to Smiley's 43%.
- Democrat Derek Kilmer held on to his seat as the US Representative for District 6 with 62% to Republican Elizabeth Kreiselmaier's 38%.
- Democrat Steve Hobbs defeated non-partisan Julie Anderson for Washington Secretary of State (50% to 47%).
- Candidates who won by acclamation in uncontested races include:
Jeff Chapman for County Assessor
Brenda Huntingford for County Auditor
Amanda Hamilton for County Clerk
James M. Kennedy for County Prosecutor and Coroner
Stacey Prada for County Treasurer
Mary I. You, Brenda Madsen, and G. Helen Whitener for Supreme Court Positions
Erik D. Price for the Court of Appeals, Division 2, District 2 Judge
Mindy Walker for District Court Judge, and
Jeff Randall for Public Utility District Commissioner

Voter turnout was at 56.69%, 15,641 votes out of a total of 27,592 registered voters.

All figures are as of 9:39pm last night.

As of 8:50 this morning, 125 PUD customers are still suffering from power outages. That would be less than 1% of customers out of a total of 19,547. On a more personal note, KPTZ programming can still be heard streaming online as, no doubt, listeners are aware, and we hope to be back up soon. The equipment that we lease went out during the storm and crews are working on it in order to ensure consistent service. The provider of the

station's leased line has escalated this repair, but we do not yet have an ETA for resuming our broadcasting on the 91.9FM airwaves.

The search is still on for missing hiker Laura Macke, a former drug and alcohol counselor from Vermont, who was reported missing in Olympic National Park just as weather was turning for the worse on November 2, 2022. Macke is 35 years old, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 200 pounds, with curly, light brown hair in a bob cut. She had a backcountry permit for October 30 to 31 and was traveling solo with an intended route to the Enchanted Valley, stopping to camp at Pyrites Creek. She indicated that she would still be in the backcountry on November 1 but has not returned. Macke is known to hike in a black and white striped shirt, black rain jacket and maroon colored puffy jacket. Officials are asking the public for any information. Anyone in the area of Lake Quinault, Graves Creek, or Enchanted Valley between October 30 and November 1 is asked to contact the National Park Service (<https://www.nps.gov/olym/learn/news/missing-hiker-laura-macke.htm>) or call or text the tip line at 1-888-653-0009.

KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news Monday through Friday at noon and 5 PM and at noon on Saturday. You can contact us at news@kptz.org. This is Jim Burke. Thank you for listening.