

Local KS elections decided Tuesday

**(MSC News)--Kansas voters went to the polls Tuesday in to decide local, state and federal races.**

**A narrow margin in the race for Atchison County Commission District 1.**

**As it currently stands, Republican incumbent Jack Bower leads his Democratic challenger, Charlie Perdue, by just 17 votes, 680 to 663.**

**Those numbers, like all votes cast Tuesday, remain unofficial until the formal canvass.**

**In Atchison County, that will happen during Tuesday's meeting of the Atchison County Commission. Around 30 provisional ballots await review, and mail-in ballots are also awaited by their end of the week deadline.**

** Left to right: Jack Bower and Charlie Perdue**

**According to Atchison County Clerk Michelle Phillips the unofficial voter turnout in Atchison County was 47%.**

**A total of 5,435 ballots were cast, with 1,460 of those being advance, walk-in, mail out advance, and overseas ballots.**

**That figure does not include provisional ballots.**

**In Hiawatha, voters approved the renewal of a one-quarter percent citywide sales tax for economic development purposes by a more than 260 vote margin, 662 to 394.**

**The sales tax, which is currently set to expire March 31, 2020, will continue for an additional 15 years until March 31, 2035.**

**John Merchant, Jr. was elected as the new Hiawatha Commissioner of Finance in a three-way race. Merchant received 498 votes. Write-in candidate David Middendorf, who current holds the position, received 288 votes. Matthew Haws, who recently withdrew from the race, received 236 votes.**

**Richard Lehmkuhl was elected as the new 1st District Brown County Commissioner. Lehmkuhl defeated incumbent Steve Roberts, who ran as a write-in candidate, by a vote margin of 911 to 414.**

**The Brown County Clerk's Office reported a 55 percent voter turnout.**

**In Marshall County, Republican Barb Kickhaefer was elected as the new 1st District county commissioner.**

**Kickhaefer defeated Democrat Steve Boyda by a vote of 704 to 650. Incumbent Robert Connell did not seek re-election.**

**Voters in the Jefferson County community of Winchester approved a one-half percent citywide sales tax for infrastructure maintenance by a vote of 86 to 62. It will take effect April 1, 2019.**

**62nd District State Representative Randy Garber, a Sabetha Republican, won re-election to another term, defeating his Democratic challenger Melvin Baker, of Seneca, by a wide margin.**

**Garber received 70 percent of the vote to Baker's 30 percent.**

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