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## **Incumbent Selectmen returned** ***Two new faces for school board***

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Express Reporters

Was it the bad weather that kept Whitman's voters indoors last Saturday?

Weather, youth sports, a CSI marathon on the tube -- whatever the reason, only 8.1 percent of Whitman's registered voters turned out for the annual spring election despite two contested races.

"There has been a very low turnout today," said Town Clerk Pamela Martin, who guessed that the rain was keeping voters home.

Seven hundred and seventeen of the town's 8,856 registered voters came out to Town Hall to vote.

Despite the dreary weather, there were still people holding signs to support their favorite candidate.

Current selectman Dan Salvucci was supporting his fellow board member, incumbent Brian Bezanson, who was returned to the Board along with fellow incumbent Margaret McGillivray.

"Brian has brought something to the Board that we haven't had in a while - participation and town function. As far as needs for the town - he's bringing them forward and we're getting things done. It was something that the Board needed," Salvucci said.

Bezanson was happy with the victory. He received the most votes at 444.

"I'm very excited and grateful to the citizens for giving me another three years to serve the community," he said.

McGillivray was also pleased with the final results.

"I was relieved," she said. "It was a close race ... I'm happy it's over."

The second selectmen's spot was indeed close.

Challenger Daniel Cullity, a member of the Recreation Commission and a first-time selectmen's



There were few lawn signs out around town for this year's election.

candidate, received 292 votes to McGillivray's 308.

Challenger Joseph Balonis said he ran the same type of campaign he has run in previous years.

"I've been in town most of my life," he said. "I know most of the issues. My campaign slogan has been 'Open honest participatory government' for decades."

The other major race on Saturday was for two slots on the Whitman-Hanson Regional School Committee. Since both incumbents chose not to run, it was a wide-open race.

Donald Wilusz was holding a sign for candidate Michael Kryzanek, a Bridgewater State College professor and founding member of the Whitman-Hanson Education Fund.

"Besides his professional commitment, I'd have to say that he's a very caring individual and he really has the interest of young people at heart. I believe he really wanted to run for school committee to have a really fair approach and to try to give as many kids as many opportunities as possible," Wilusz said.

Another supporter, Kathy Sabo, put it in even simpler terms.

"He cares about public education and is an all around good guy," she said.

Kryzanek was actually surprised to come to Town Hall and find out he'd won the seat.

"I was surprised because I was out picking up all of the signs. I thought I'd come here and I thought they would be counting. But, I found out to my delight that they had already declared the winners and I was one of them," he said.

"I believe it's important to serve the community you live in. I have some background in education as a college teacher but also I'm involved in the Whitman-Hanson Education Foundation so I have some knowledge of the issues. I think it's important to give back to the community."

The other victorious candidate, Robert Trotta, had his supporters outside Town Hall.

"He's great for the job and is a great guy. He's been involved in the schools for thirty five plus years," said Mark Trotta.

"I've been in education for thirty five years as a teacher, union leader and administrator," said the candidate after learning of his victory. "I've been in town for about thirty two years. I feel that my background itself leads me to be a good candidate."

In other major races, Ronald Delmonico won an uncontested race to become the newest Department of Public Works Commissioner.

Victoria Mulligan was returned to her position as Town Treasurer, and Jean Bumpus to hers as Assessor.

In other uncontested races, Patricia Goldman and Grace Nelson won seats on the Library Trustees, and Michael Gainshirt won a two-year position to fill a vacancy. Elonie Bezanson was elected to a five-year term on the Planning Board, and John Duval was re-elected as a member of the Board of Health.