

Beaverhead County voters head to polls facing races, issues

Turnout among Beaverhead County voters appeared to be high Tuesday, as voters came out to decide one local race, as well as a wide range of national and state races and issues.

In addition to selecting a president, a senator and representative, voters will have to choose their state senator, between Republican incumbent Chuck Swysgood and Democratic challenger Louise Bruce. In that race a Beaverhead County straw poll published last week in the Dillon Tribune inadvertently left out the only local race, between Swysgood and Bruce. In that poll, Swysgood polled 540 votes to Bruce's 211, for a 70.5 percent total, compared with Bruce' 27.6 percent.

The only other local issue is whether or not the City of Dillon will adopt a charter-form of government, and if voters accept that, whether or not in the future city races will be held on a non-partisan basis. The charter-form would help equalize the power of the mayor and the council, and equip the city with self-governing powers.

Voters are also being asked to wade through a huge pile of initiatives on the state ballot, on issues ranging from restrictions on mine water discharge to changes in financing of the state's Workers Compensation Fund by allowing partto be invested in the stock market.

Major Races - Beaverhead County

Unofficial Results as of 11 p.m. Nov. 5

President

BILL CLINTON (D) 357

BOB DOLE (R) 904

ROSS PEROT (RP) 148

7 of 17
Precincts

U.S. Senator

MAX BAUCUS (D) 409

DENNIS REHBERG (R) 924

U.S. Representative

RICK HILL (R) 1029

BILL YELLOWTAIL (D) 357

State Senator

CHUCK SWYSGOOD (R) 1083 LOUISE BRUCE (D) 337

City Charter 1 of 4 precincts

YES 130

NO 104



LaVerne Carroll puts a ballot in a container, as Judge Mary Ann Gasperino watches, during the election Tuesday at the Bicentennial Apartments voting place. John Barrows Photo