

SAN FRANCISCO

Lee says he won mayoralty

With 85 percent of votes counted, he has strong leads

By Beth Duff-Brown and Marcus Wohlsen
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Ed Lee, an unassuming city bureaucrat who calls himself a “reluctant politician,” declared himself the winner of the San Francisco mayoral race Wednesday, beating out a wide field of strong candidates with 85 percent of the votes counted.

Once Lee is confirmed winner by elections officials, he would become the city's first elected Asian-American mayor.

Elections officials said that with about 85 percent of the votes counted, Lee, the interim mayor, had taken a commanding lead, with 61 percent of the votes. City Supervisor John Avalos trailed far behind with 39 percent.

“I’m confident that we can use the word victory right now,” Lee said outside his office at City Hall.

Flanked by his wife and daughter, Lee became emotional as he spoke about the honor of becoming the 43rd mayor of the city, as well as the first Asian-American.



JEFF CHIU/ASSOCIATED PRESS

San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, center, shakes hands with a volunteer at the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center on Wednesday in San Francisco. Lee holds a wide lead against a diverse slate of 15 candidates.

“The voters of San Francisco want four more years of what we’ve been doing,” he said. “I’m not going anywhere except to do the best I can representing this city.”

Lee had been the interim mayor since January and insisted right up until August that he would not run. But once he joined the contest — encouraged by political heavyweights and accomplishments during his short term in office — no candidate came close to matching his likability ratings.

Voters had been waiting to hear Wednesday whether they could get their first Asian-American or Hispanic mayor, after an instant runoff was launched when no candidate got a majority of the vote.

This is the first mayoral election in which the voter-adopted ranked-choice system has kicked in, designed to save the city an estimated \$15 million in runoff costs over 10 years. Newsom was re-elected in 2007 with more than 70 percent of the vote, eliminating any need to start counting second- and third-choice votes.

If no candidate gets a majority, the last-place candidate is eliminated. Voters who chose that candidate have their votes transferred to their second-choice candidates. If a voter’s first and second choices are eliminated, then their third-choice is counted, a process that repeats until one candidate receives more than 50 percent.

School

Continued from Page 1

the charter wins approval. He also said he agreed with Denner’s idea of tackling problems at schools.

“I would encourage the district and the charter organizers to work together on a process that continues to address some of the grievances,” he said. “It’s not going to change their ability to appeal the decision we made. The only thing that can come from this is good for the students and the parents. And I think it can’t happen fast enough. I think it needs to happen immediately.”

The district may also create an independent committee to determine the ultimate financial effect of the charter, Superintendent Steven Lawrence told the board. About 40 people spoke at Tuesday’s meeting, with nearly two dozen supporting the charter, about a dozen against it and five people urging the board to consider the entire district, without specifically opposing the charter.

Northgate Principal John McMorris urged the charter organizers to work within the district for the changes they want, similar to the way he worked with dissatisfied parents when he came to Northgate about four years ago.

Denner and trustee Cheryl

Hansen initially supported the charter by voting to approve it without conditions. The motion was defeated.

Denner said the district needs to examine why the Clayton Valley community wants to sever its relationship with the district. Hansen then moved to deny the charter so organizers could appeal to the county.

But she was the lone vote against her own motion, saying she supported the charter and did not think people should be afraid of change.

Trustee Linda Mayo said her vote to deny the petition was based on the financial analysis. She also said the educational program was not innovative.

OBITUARY

‘Circus’ cartoonist dies

Keane’s beloved panel has run for more than 50 years

By Amanda Lee Myers
Associated Press



Keane Said ‘Circus’ succeeded because of simplicity.

PHOENIX — For more than a half century, Bil Keane’s clever “Family Circus” comics entertained readers with a mix of humor and traditional family values, intentionally simplistic because the author thought the American public needed the consistency.

Keane, who started drawing the one-panel cartoon featuring Billy, Jeffy, Dolly, P.J. and their parents in February 1960, died Tuesday at age 89. His comic strip is featured in nearly 1,500 newspapers across the country.

Jeff Keane, his son, said his father died of congestive heart failure. Bil Keane has a home in Paradise Valley, near Phoenix, but it was not immediately clear where he died.

Keane said in a 1995 interview with The Associated Press that the cartoon endured because of its consistency and simplicity.

“It’s reassuring, I think, to the American public to see

the same family,” he said.

Although Keane kept the strip current with references to pop culture movies and songs, the context of his comic was timeless. The ghostlike “Ida Know” and “Not Me” who got blamed for household accidents were staples of the strip. The family’s pets were dogs Barfy and Sam, and the cat, Kittycat.

“We are, in the comics, the last frontier of good, wholesome family humor and entertainment,” Keane said. “On radio and television, magazines and the movies, you can’t tell what you’re going to get. When you look at the comic page, you can usually depend on something acceptable by the entire family.”

His friend Charles M. Schulz, the late creator of “Peanuts,” once said the most important thing about “Family Circus” is that it’s funny.

“I think we share a care

for the same type of humor,” Schulz told The Associated Press in 1995. “We’re both family men with children and look with great fondness at our families.”

Keane said the strip hit its stride with a cartoon he did in the mid-1960s.

“It showed Jeffy coming out of the living room late at night in pajamas and Mommy and Daddy watching television and Jeffy says, ‘I don’t feel so good. I think I need a hug.’ And suddenly I got a lot mail from people about this dear little fella needing a hug, and I realized that there was something more than just getting a belly laugh every day.”

Even with his traditional side, Keane appreciated younger cartoonists’ efforts. He listed Gary Larson’s “The Far Side” among his favorites, and he loved it when Bill Griffith had his offbeat “Zippy the Pinhead” character wake up from a bump on the head thinking he was Keane’s Jeffy.

In later years, Keane continued to produce “Family Circus” with the help of his youngest son, Jeff. Keane sketched out the ideas, characters and captions and sent them to Jeff for inking.

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Deborah Bordeau

2011-2012 Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year

We are proud to announce this year’s Contra Costa County Teacher of the Year, Deborah Bordeau. All of our district Teachers of the Year exemplify the highest standards of excellence and dedication in the teaching profession. Each of them strives year after year to give their very best to their students. Our profound thanks for their courage and commitment!

FINALISTS

Deborah Bordeau
Laurel Elementary
Oakley Union Elementary SD

Donna Kenyon
John Baldwin Elementary
San Ramon Valley USD

Sue Noce
Foothill Middle
Mt. Diablo USD

2011-2012 DISTRICT TEACHERS OF THE YEAR



Back row (left to right): Michael Wood (Liberty), Renee Travis (Martinez), Diane Dias (Walnut Creek), Deborah Bordeau (Oakley), Donna Kenyon (San Ramon Valley), Steve Coccimiglio (Community College District); Second row: Carol Scott (Moraga), Patsy Templeton (Orinda), Gina Terry (Brentwood), Donna Aspell (Knightsen), Carroll Martin (Lafayette), Sue Noce (Mt. Diablo); Third row: Nichole Hackett (Mt. Diablo), Thomas Gravert (Antioch), Emma Arellano Flores (Pittsburg), Kristin Ortega (Byron), Marie Graham-Tyler (CCCOE), Nanci Buckingham (West Contra Costa), and Jeremy Umland (John Swett).

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