

EDH voters say no to cityhood

By Crystal Vernazza, Staff writer

(11.09.05) When the votes were tallied up Tuesday evening, a mere 707 votes kept the community of El Dorado Hills from becoming a city.

According to El Dorado County Elections preliminary results, 4,273, or 42.9 percent voted yes on Measure P, which asked whether or not EDH should incorporate. Voting no on the measure were 5,686 residents, or 57 percent of the electorate. The EDC Elections Department has 28 days from the election day to officially certify the results.

“We're workin' real hard right now,” said Norma Gray, an elections official. Gray and the rest of the elections staff are busy counting 6,000 outstanding absentee ballots and 600 provisionals. The final numbers should be updated in the next few weeks, but it's not likely that the results will change much, Gray said.

“I doubt it because not all of the absentees are from El Dorado Hills,” said Gray. “It's not likely it'll change, but you never know.”

Of the 18,687 registered voters in El Dorado Hills, 55.3 percent, or 10,347 of them, turned out to vote. Fifty-six hundred of them made it out to the polls and the remaining 4,747 voted by absentee ballot.

If Measure P had succeeded, the inaugural city council members would have been John Hidahl, Jeff Haberman, Larry Brilliant, Greg Murphy, and John Knight. They were the top five vote-getters out of a pool of 17 candidates.

“It was kinda fun to see who our city council members would've been, and any combination of five would've been great,” said Greg Jones, Yes on P communications director. “It's disappointing that we're not going to be a city, but the five candidates who were elected would've been great and I think they would've served the City of El Dorado Hills very well.”

Jones said he and other cityhood supporters were disappointed that their efforts didn't pay off but, “there's a silver lining in any cloud.”

“I was prepared for some sort of outcome like this, you have to be,” he said. “We would've like to have obviously seen a different outcome but it is clear to me that 43 percent is a pretty significant voice.”

Members of the No on P Committee were unavailable for comment Wednesday morning.