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Lewisville: Early voting ends; Runoff Saturday

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Gorena or Gilmore will fill longtime seat of Ueckert

By DAN EAKIN , Staff Writer

Several hundred Lewisville voters are expected to go to the polls Saturday to decide whether John Gorena or TJ Gilmore will replace Dean Ueckert in the Place 4 position on the Lewisville City Council, and several hundred already have.

City Secretary Julie Heinze said a total of 639 people had voted early between June 1 and 7 p.m. Monday, with one more day of early voting still ahead for Tuesday.

Election Day voting will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday at Lewisville City Hall, the Lewisville Municipal Annex and at Memorial Park.

Either Gorena or Gilmore will replace Ueckert, who was elected mayor May 9 after having served on the city council since 1998. He replaced Gene Carey, who had served as mayor since 2000.

The Place 4 seat has been vacant since May 9, pending the outcome of Saturday's runoff election.

For the past several years, Heinze said, fewer people have voted in runoff elections than in regular elections. She said the number of people who vote early and who wait until Election Day to vote varies.

A total of 1,153 voted early in Lewisville, for the May 9 election.

Heinze said early voting was more brisk this year than in the 2007 runoff between Ron Aljoe and Lathan Watts. A total of 495 voted early in 2007.

In the May 9 city election, Gorena got 875 votes, including 468 in early voting, or 44.26 percent. Gilmore received 577 votes, including 348 in early voting, or 29.19 percent. Margie Rochelle received 525 votes, including 304 in early voting, or 26.56 percent.

Although Gorena got the most votes of the three candidates May 9, Rochelle is campaigning hard for Gilmore and is asking all of her supporters to vote for him in the runoff. Gilmore has also been endorsed by former Mayor Gene Carey, Councilman Greg Tierney and other city leaders.

Gorena, on the other hand, has received the endorsement of several local citizens who believe he is the candidate mostly likely to fight for stronger efforts to deal with illegal immigrants in the city.

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