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# HOLLYWOOD COMES TO LEWISTON

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 INSIDE TODAY'S PAPER



Election 2026:

## Democrats sweep in Lewiston

Cota elected mayor,  
 Coppins & Collesano to Village Board

BY JOSHUA MALONI  
 GM/Managing Editor

Change is coming to the Village of Lewiston.

On Tuesday, residents chose Democrat candidate Dan Cota to be the municipality's next mayor. He defeated incumbent Republican officeholder Anne Welch by a vote of 366-294.

Joining Cota will be fellow Democrats Tina Coppins – elected to her second term – and Leandra Collesano, who is a first-time elected official.

Coppins was the top vote-getter with 433; followed by Collesano, who had 378. Deputy Mayor Vic Eydtt, a four-term board member, finished third with 293 votes. First-time candidate Rob Nichols finished with 198 votes.

Come July, the traditionally GOP-leaning Village Board will have a Democrat majority.

Though that's significant, the three newly elected leaders said political party wasn't what determined the results.



Pictured, from left: Leandra Collesano, Dan Cota and Tina Coppins.

"I think that building a campaign around listening really resonated with everybody here, and people want to be heard – and now they will be," Cota said.

Coppins said, "I really don't think it's

SEE NEW, continued on Page 2

## Grand Island School District budget passes on 2nd vote



Voters wait to sign in with election inspectors in the second school budget referendum.

STORY & PHOTO BY ALICE GERARD  
 Senior Contributing Writer

The Grand Island Central School District budget passed Tuesday.

Superintendent Dr. Brian Graham expressed his gratitude to the 4,001 voters who came to the polls at Grand Island High School for the second vote on the 2026-27 academic year.

"First of all, I'm really grateful that Grand Island showed up tonight for our students and for our schools. This is what

community looks like: 4,000 voices and one shared belief in our students," Graham said. "It's also important to recognize the Board of Education for listening to the results of the first budget, making changes, and appreciating what the community was telling us about the tax levy."

The budget (proposition one) passed by the vote of 2,650-1,340, and proposition two (vehicle purchases) passed by the vote of 2,529-1,423.

SEE GICSD, continued on Page 2



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