

November 4, 2020: Local News — Eisenhower wins District 2 commissioner race

This is KPTZ 91.9 FM in Port Townsend, Washington. I'm Lily Haight with local news for November 4th, 2020.

While ballots across the country are still being counted and results are up in the air, in Jefferson County's only contested local race, the results are clear: Heidi Eisenhower won the most votes for the District 2 seat on the Board of County Commissioners.

According to preliminary results released last night by the county elections office, Eisenhower won 58 percent of the votes, while her opponent Lorna Smith won 39% of the votes.

Eisenhower first filed for the election back in May, in the height of the global coronavirus pandemic. Having grown up in Irondale in a family that participated in the fishing industry, Eisenhower decided to run for commissioner after years of community organizing roles. As the former director of the Jefferson Land Trust, she helped conserve farmland and important riparian habitat in Chimacum. And now as the operations director at the Maritime Center, she has worked to preserve the maritime history of Jefferson County and continue it through youth education programs.

One of her major goals for the future is to strengthen the county's resiliency in the midst of the pandemic, while also focusing on the importance of creating more affordable housing for Jefferson County residents.

I spoke with Heidi last night over Zoom, just minutes after the initial results were announced. She spoke about how she is feeling now that the race has been won and how her community motivated her.

QUOTE FROM HEIDI

I also asked Heidi if she had her eye on the national race, which is still undecided and is likely to be up in the air for at least the next few days, if not longer.

QUOTE FROM HEIDI

And with two months left before she will be sworn in, I asked Heidi how she plans to prepare for her new job as county commissioner.

QUOTE FROM HEIDI

For more coverage of the current election, head to KPTZ.org to listen to Charlie Bermant's morning after election coverage.

And that's it for today's local news. KPTZ 91.9 FM brings you local news at noon Monday through Saturday and at five PM Monday through Thursday. You can contact us through news@kptz.org. I'm Lily Haight. Thanks for listening.