

Grand Island Town Board

Buffalo News Story- November 5, 2024

Republican Jose Garcia has won a seat on the Grand Island Town Board with 57% of the vote, continuing the party's full control of Grand Island town government by winning election to a vacant seat.

Meanwhile, a Grand Island proposition to extend and expand term limits also has passed by a wide margin.

Garcia, 53, is a Grand Island native who retired as a special agent with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and now runs a private investigations and language interpretation business.

He defeated Democrat Wayne M. West, 66, a realtor and Union Carbide retiree, in the contest for a seat left open since Councilmember Peter Marston Jr. moved up to supervisor in January. Garcia now must run again in 2025 for a full board term.

Garcia had said he wanted to encourage denser development in the town's central core and to

West, who unsuccessfully campaigned for a board seat in 2023, sought to boost investment in town-owned facilities and private properties such as the former Radisson Hotel.

The GOP has swept town races since 2019, despite holding a narrow enrollment edge on the island, where 36% of registered voters are Republicans and 33% are Democrats.

Grand Island voters also approved an update to the town's term-limit law that, going forward, would allow the supervisor and Town Board members to serve for a maximum of 12 years, and the highway superintendent and town clerk to serve for no more than 16 years.

Grand Island's current term limits, on the books since 2016, limits the supervisor and board members to two four-year terms, or eight years total.

The term-limit law on the ballot also introduces term limits for highway superintendent and town clerk.