

Tome in

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who can unconditionally and without question carry out their agenda, and I don't think I'm that guy," Weldon said. To stay on "would be unfair to Karin. It would not be fair to her to have her biggest obstacle be an ideological difference with the number one person inside City Hall.

"I fought the chicken thing," he said, referring to the debate about whether residents should be allowed to keep six or fewer chickens in backyards. "I was adamantly against pay-as-you-throw trash collection the last time it came up. Both issues were prominent on her flyers and website. I felt I'd have compromised who I am" to work in favor of those proposals.

Weldon emphasized his differences with Tome are ideological. "I like her a lot. After all, she has worked for me in the past."

Weldon has served as a State Delegate and a County Commissioner.

Weldon added that he has written columns and political commentary for The Tentacle for thirteen years. "A couple of years ago I wrote a column—I thought it was humor. Basically

it was a rant channeling the comic Denis Leary. I said I thought there was a group of environmental activists in Frederick who took themselves more seriously than they should, and I made light of that—but I guess it wasn't as funny as I thought. A group headed by a couple of people petitioned to have me removed from my job in Frederick. Karin was not one of organizers, but she was a member of the group that advocated for my removal.

"I like to write—now I do it once a month for *The Frederick News-Post* and every week for *The Tentacle*—and I don't want to have to rethink everything I write in terms of having to keep a job. That suggested to me that the classy move is to step aside now and let Karin start her term on the right foot."

Does Weldon have any plans?

"None. Talk about going out on a tightrope over high ground!

"But I've told Karin there's nothing magic about August 24. She can take the time she needs to find a replacement.

"There's not been one mayor in history that I've agreed 100 per cent with—and that includes Karin's predecessor. But she has a lot of passion and enthusiasm, and those things are key to what we need to do. I think she's going to be a great mayor.

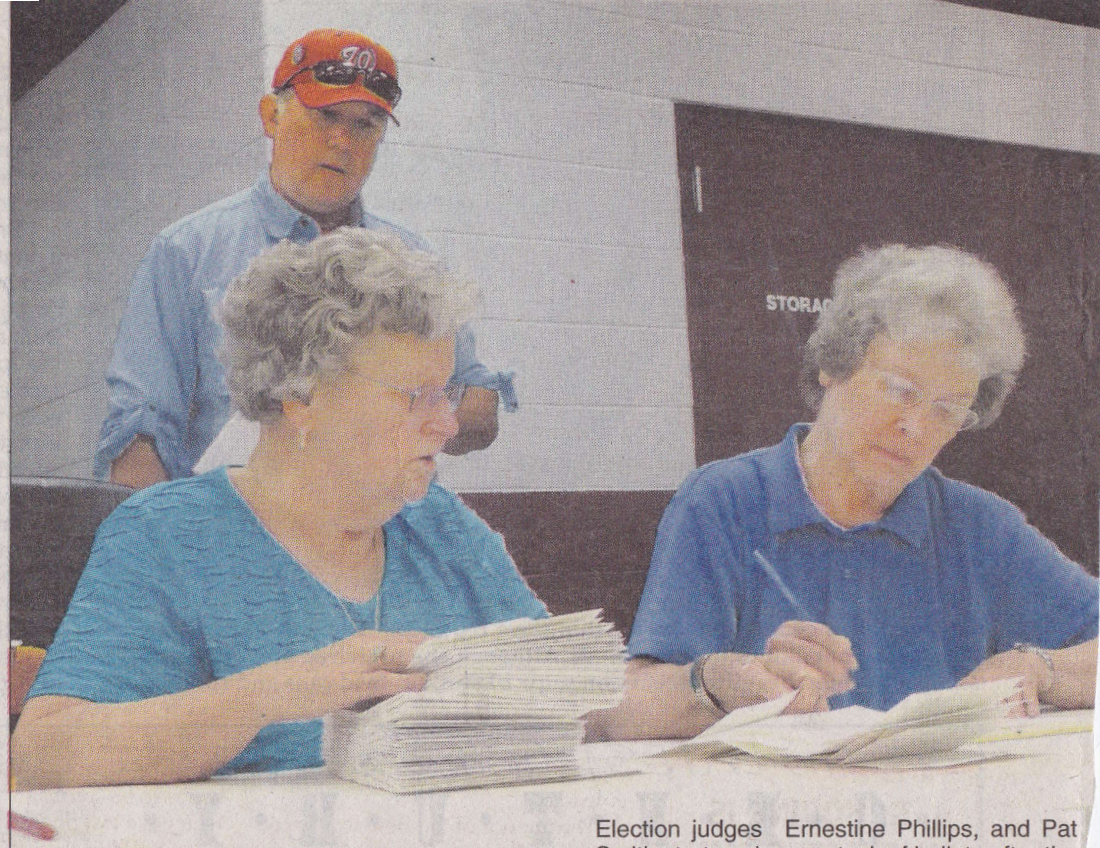
"And I've told Karin—if in the months to come, she sees a role for me as a volunteer with the City, to give me a call."

Tome excited to start work

After the election results were announced, Tome said she was hum-

Election judges Vicki Dearing (foreground) and Cindy Haga go over the ballots.

— Citizen / Julie Maynard



Election judges Ernestine Phillips, and Pat Smith start work on a stack of ballots after the last vote was cast at 7:59pm. — Citizen / Julie Maynard

bled but also excited to get started.

This week she said she thought she had a chance to win, from going door to door to talk to as many voters in Brunswick as she could find home. "People were talking about change," she said. "I always told people that I thought Carroll was doing a good job, and many of them agreed, but still said it was time for a change."

Tome said she's looked at her 76-vote margin of victory and knows it is not at all a mandate. "The margin showed me people want change, but not a massive change. I mostly want the tone of City government to change, and I did campaign on involving citizens more."

Was she surprised by Smith's resignation? "Not surprised," she said, "but disappointed. I hoped he would stay. He represents a portion of Brunswick, and it's incredibly important to have representation of a diverse community on the council.

That's why going door-to-door was so important for me. I talked to people who might not otherwise come out to say what's on their minds."

Tome said one thing people asked her when she came to their door was about rumors Rick Weldon would leave City Hall. "I'd tell them Rick was always my first choice for City administrator. We've had our ups and downs over twenty years, but I know Rick loves Brunswick, and many citizens wanted to see him stay in that position.

"Enough people asked me if he was leaving that I went to talk to Rick. I told him I was telling people he was my first choice for the job. But he said he'd probably not stay, that I should have someone who supports my vision for Brunswick. We did disagree on some things, but I'd say we agreed on many more. I wanted him to stay, though I knew it would be difficult for both of us."

Tome said she suggested a trial period of one year—for both of them. "We could have each given it a shot to see if it

