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## Gordon wins seat on council

By Jason Kandel, Staff Writer  
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BURBANK - Optometrist David Gordon edged out former Mayor Bill Wiggins Tuesday in a tight race for the open Burbank City Council seat vacated by Stacey Murphy, who resigned after being arrested on drug and child endangerment charges in connection with a local street gang investigation.

City officials counted more than 11,000 mailed-in ballots late into the night during the special election. Gordon received 4,253 votes, and Wiggins got 3,996 votes with all precincts reporting. About 47,000 Burbank residents were eligible to vote.

Final results will be posted Friday, after the ballots are certified by Los Angeles County.

Five candidates were vying for the seat, but Wiggins and Gordon stood out from the pack after having raised the most campaign cash leading into the all-mail-in election.

Wiggins, 56, who was first elected to the Burbank City Council in April 1993, served as mayor between 1994 and 1997, and 2000-2001. He was running on a platform of improving traffic, and reducing nighttime noise at Bob Hope Airport.

Wiggins appeared to be ahead early on. Minutes before the final ballots were counted, he predicted it would be a tight race.

"I think it's going to be a horse race," Wiggins said from his home, where he was watching the ABC show "Commander in Chief." "We won't know until all the precincts are counted."

Wiggins is a current Bob Hope Airport commissioner.

Gordon was running for the first time. Gordon, 50, is a 22-year resident of Burbank who was a member of the Burbank Planning Board from 1995-99. Gordon was hoping to attract votes with a pledge to stop airport expansion and prevent the "Los Angelization" of Burbank.

He too was uncertain of the final outcome.

"It's a cliffhanger," Gordon said while visiting City Hall, where the ballots were being counted in the basement by a team of volunteers and officials.

"I'm cautiously optimistic," he said before all the ballots were counted. "I know there are a lot of people who voiced strong support for my candidacy across the community."

This is the second time Vahe Hovanessian, a 31-year-old Glendale lawyer, has run for City Council. Hovanessian, who finished last in April's election, appeared to be in third place Tuesday. He has lived in Burbank since he was a toddler and said he ran this time to try to tackle the city's traffic problems and make the city as business-friendly as possible. He is a current member of the Burbank Water & Power Board.

Candidate Amy Lawrence, 48, a native of New York, ran to try to preserve Burbank's "small town charms."

Candidate Michael Dontanville, 42, said safety was his top concern. He said he ran to try to push for a new terminal at Bob Hope Airport that would sit farther away from runways.

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