Barack Obama was re-elected president of the United States for a second four-year term in the Nov. 6 election.

Nationwide, Obama and Vice President Joe Biden captured 51 percent of the popular vote, compared to Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan's 48 percent. In the electoral college, Obama garnered 332 votes to Romney's 206.

Colorado voters mirrored the national outcome, with voters favoring Obama over Romney 50-48 percent. This marked the first time in 76 years that Colorado voters backed a Democratic presidential candidate for a second term, according to The Denver Post.

The Phillips County vote, however, showed Romney over Obama 72-26 percent.

Phillips County Clerk and Recorder Beth Zilla said the official vote canvass and counting of the seven provisional ballots is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, Nov. 15. No outcomes are expected to change.

As reported in last week's Enterprise, in the only county contested race, Republican Don Lock defeated unaffiliated candidate Carl Wirth 81-19 percent for county commissioner in district three. Harlan Stern was unchallenged in his bid for the district two commissioner seat.

In other uncontested districtwide races, Republican incumbent Jerry Sonnenberg was re-elected district 65 state representative and Republican Brittny Lewton was elected district attorney in the 13th Judicial District.

Voter turnout in this county was reported at 73.16 percent, with 2,284 ballots cast.

In the 4th Congressional District, Republican Cory Gardner was re-elected, defeating

Democratic challenger Brandon Shaffer 58.5-36.7 percent. Phillips County voters also favored Gardner, but in a wider 76-20 percent margin.

All seven incumbents won re-election to Congress in the seven Congressional districts in Colorado.

All three statewide ballot issues passed in last week's election, but Phillips County voters only gave the edge to one.

Amendment 64, the legalization of marijuana for recreational use by adults, passed statewide 55-45 percent. This county opposed the measure with 37 percent in favor and 63 percent against.

Colorado passed Amendment S, state personnel system changes, 56-44 percent. This county did not go the same as the outcome, as Phillips County voted 42 percent in favor and 58 percent against.

Colorado passed Amendment 65 on campaign finance limits, 74-26 percent. Phillips County also favored the amendment, 67-33 percent.

City and school issues reviewed

While neither the City of Holyoke nor Holyoke School District Re-1J had issues on the 2012 ballot, a review of other municipalities and school districts shows success at the polls.

Colorado Municipal League noted 13 cities and towns had financial measures on the 2012

ballot. Ten of those passed, while three failed.

Colorado had more than $1 billion of school bond and override questions on the ballot, with 35 of the 38 measures passing.

Holyoke Superintendent Bret Miles said public polling seems to indicate there is greater support for increased school funding. “How that plays out with the General Assembly this year will remain to be seen,” Miles added.

“It also seems to be another indication that we are headed into an era where local districts have to raise their own funds through bonds and mill levy overrides to have the school they desire, rather than relying on a state system through the School Finance Act,” said Miles.

Holyoke Enterprise November 15, 2012