



PRESS RELEASE

20111219 Perry set to join Woodland City Council after winning coin toss

Robert Ripp and Scott Perry stood side by side Wednesday in middle of Woodland High School's gymnasium.

Surrounded by television cameras and photographers, both men watched as high school student body President Morgan Kinnear flipped the custom-made coin that would decide who would become the city's next council member.

It was made with a numeral 1 on one side and a 2 on the other. One for Ripp, two for Perry.

The coin clanged on the ground then rolled a few inches before toppling over and resting on 2.

Perry thus became Woodland's newest City Council member, winning the coin toss that broke an election tie between him and Ripp.

"I've been looking at the budget," Perry said, "and I'm not too sure he's not the winner. It's a four-year term, so hopefully there's some brighter days. ... Nobody is going to be very happy. The budget has been a real real tough one this year."

But on Wednesday city and county officials and residents joined about 600 students for a special assembly to witness the rare spectacle provided by the tie-breaker.

The two men tied at 569 votes each after a hand recount of ballots from the November general election.

Perry, 70, will replace Councilman Darwin Rounds, who sought re-election but was eliminated in the August primary.

The event which has been the talk of the town among adults received mixed results among its younger residents.

Morgan, 17, practiced flipping a quarter for five minutes in one of the school's hallways to get his thumb warmed up for the event.

"I just want to get a good arc on it. The key is to get it to spin on the floor," he said about his plan on creating dramatic tension leading up to the event. "I think it's great that they're having it here."

Freshman TJ Carns, 16, didn't get too caught up in the novelty, saying he would have preferred a best two out of three rock-paper-scissors contest.



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Brianne Koering, 18, was one of the few students who voted in November's general election. She said she was excited to see the race come down to chance, but lamented that the guy she voted for, Ripp, didn't win.

Both men said more effort on both their parts could have tipped the scales in their favor.

"(Ripp) beat me so bad in the primary that I said I wasn't going to throw any more money and effort on this project," Perry said about his opponent, who took 58 percent of the total vote in the August primary.

Ripp said he was disappointed, but not too broken up about the loss. However, he said the outcome served as a lesson to never take your foot off the pedal, no matter what.

"I had a rude awakening," he said. "But we created a little history today."

Article by [The Daily News](#).
