

Dehn wins recount by 20 votes

Written by Ivan Phifer

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Raymond Dehn is in fact the winner of the DFL Primary for the State House Seat in Senate District 59(B).

Terra Cole, who lost to Dehn in the Aug. 14 primary by just 19 votes, requested a recount to verify the validity of the results. At the conclusion of primary voting, Dehn had 876 votes to Cole's 857. Ian Alexander, who also competed in the primary, received 627 votes.

Minnesota election laws trigger an automatic recount if the margin of victory is less than 0.5 percent, however a candidate can request to have a recount if the margin of victory is greater than 0.5 percent, which Cole did.

"The recount was an interesting process," said Dehn. "The margin of this race was point eight-one percent.

As a result of six and a half hours of recounting more than 2,300 ballots, the recount showed Dehn to have an extra vote, making the result final in Dehn's favor.

After the recount was conducted by Hennepin County, it was transferred to the Hennepin County Election Canvassing Board. Four ballots were challenged, due to voters' intent. This means the voter either voted for multiple parties, or multiple candidates within a party. Those ballots were thrown out.

Dehn said ballots cast for Alexander were not included in the recount.

Insight News attempted to contact Terra Cole for this story, but she was unavailable for comment.