

Wilson proves his clout by getting win for Berglund

Lee Rozen/Moscow-Pullman Daily News Editorial Board

The news out of the Idaho primary - at least as it has been written out of Spokane and Boise - has been about the super-conservative officeholders defeated by new more moderate conservatives. Likewise, there were several super-conservative challengers who failed to knock off moderate GOP incumbents.

Then, there's the 5th Legislative District - that's us - where very conservative Carl Berglund defeated moderate Bill Goesling. Both were vying to challenge Paulette Jordan, a liberal Democrat first elected two years ago.

Berglund won despite Goesling's name familiarity from service on the Moscow School Board and currently the State Board of Education, among others. Goesling, 75, may have been relying a little too much on that name familiarity.

It didn't help at all in conservative Benewah County, where he was soundly defeated.

It didn't help - at least not enough - in liberal Moscow where Berglund also soundly defeated him.

At first, Berglund credited his win to his message.

Under further questioning about whether support from Christ Church and its outspoken pastor, Doug Wilson, helped at all, he said, "I'm absolutely convinced it did. It sounds like a lot of people from church got out and voted."

The Sunday before the election Wilson had this to say - not from the pulpit but on his private blog - "I would like to encourage everyone who lives in this district (who can vote in the Republican primary) to make a point of voting for my friend Carl Berglund. This kind of vote at the local level will become increasingly important as we consider the ever-lengthening clown car parade at the national levels."

Wilson and Berglund have also recorded several political "interviews" on Facebook, where some of Wilson's questions are longer than Berglund's answers.

It's also interesting where Berglund's message drew financial support. For the primary, he reported, \$1,230 came from outside the 5th District, \$1,105.22 from within. His biggest donor at \$500 was in Sealy, Texas. Goesling got all his donations from Latah County and spent \$1,000 more on his campaign than Berglund did.

It's clear there's a new political force in Latah County.