

Posted on Tuesday, August 17, 2010 at 11:31 p.m.

Everett, Federspiel advance in Yakima Co. District Court race

by Phil Ferolito

Yakima Herald-Republic

YAKIMA, Wash. -- A race for an open seat on the Yakima County District Court was narrowed to two veteran lawyers Tuesday night after an assistant Yakima city attorney was knocked out of the contest.

Mike Everett and Doug Federspiel will square off in the November general election.

Unofficial results late Tuesday showed Federspiel receiving 9,229 votes or 44.4 percent, and Everett following with 8,352 or 40.2 percent.

Bronson Faul trailed with 3,040 votes, or 14.6 percent.

Federspiel said he was happy about the interest voters showed in the judicial race.

"I feel very good about it and sure appreciate all the support of the community," he said in telephone interview from his Yakima office.

He said he'll continue the same campaign strategy.

Everett, too, said he was pleased with the support he received.

"I think our message of needing to hold people accountable and not being afraid of these gang-bangers resonated with the public," he said from his Grandview office. "I think people want someone that's experienced in District Court."

Federspiel, a 47-year-old native of Selah, says his career is mostly filled with civil trial experience that has allowed him to work free of any prosecutor and criminal defense bias.

Now working as general counsel to the Wilkinson Corp., he began his career trying cases in Yakima County District Court and has served as a pro tem judge in Yakima County Superior Court.

He earned a bachelor's degree in political science at Whitman College and a law degree at Willamette University College of Law.

Everett, a Grandview native who has spent his entire 36-year career there, says his experience handling family law and complex civil litigation gives him a leg up on his opponent.

The 64-year-old says he's handled about 10,000 criminal cases in municipal and district court. He has also argued two cases in front of the Washington State Supreme Court.

After serving in Vietnam, he earned his law degree from Gonzaga University.