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## Gilliard claims victory over Allen in Charleston runoff

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BY ROBERT BEHRE  
 The Post and Courier

Wendell Gilliard defeated Harold Allen in Tuesday's Charleston City Council District 6 runoff by a 161-95 margin, according to unofficial results.

Allen and Gilliard emerged as the top two vote-getters in the Aug. 5 primary that also included Tommie Coaxum. Since then, Gilliard got Coaxum's endorsement, and on Tuesday, he seemed to get most of her voters, too.

"I felt Ms. Coaxum had a lot to do with it, so I want to point her out and thank her," Gilliard said Tuesday night. "I also want to thank Mr. Harold Allen for running a good race, too. I don't think his efforts should go unnoted."

When told of the unofficial results Tuesday night, Allen said, "First of all, I'd like to thank all my supporters for coming out and supporting me. That's about it."

The result - Gilliard winning with about 63 percent of the vote - is expected to hold when Democratic officials meet Thursday to certify the winner. There were only a few challenged ballots, Democratic City Chair Gilliardwoman Harriet McBryde Johnson said. "Things seem to have gone quite smoothly," she added.

Gilliard, 43, a plant operator with Albright & Wilson Americas, faces Republican businesswoman Montye DuBose in the Nov. 4 general election. After winning, he appealed for Democrats to vote in large numbers this fall.

Allen, 54, who runs a mom-and-pop store at Nunan Street and Ashley Avenue, will continue to serve on the Charleston County Constituent School Board for District 20.

Gilliard said his victory was made possible by several people and groups, including his father, William Gilliard; labor groups; the Washington Park, Maryville and Ashleyville neighborhoods; and several other individual supporters.

"I'm elated. I felt the voters felt I was the better person," he said. "I only have God to thank, and of course, I have my voters to thank."

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