

Andrew Smith and Donald Bradley were the clear-cut favorites in the Logan County sheriff and commissioner races according to 94 optional anonymous surveys filled out by guests at Thursday's election forum. The event was sponsored by the Logan County Branch of the American Association of University Women and the *Bellefontaine Examiner*.

Mr. Smith, a Republican candidate and current lieutenant at the Logan County Sheriff's Office, is running against West Liberty Police Chief Ronald Murray, an independent candidate, to become the first new sheriff in the county in more than 20 years. The winner of the Nov. 4 general election will replace Michael Henry who is retiring from his post at the end of his term.

Mr. Bradley, a Monroe Township trustee who is running as an independent, is facing incumbent Commissioner John Bayliss and a second independent candidate, Bruce Lile, who owns an excavating business.

According to the surveys, which do not reflect scientific polling methods, Mr. Smith edged Mr. Murray by a count of 49 to 35.

In the commissioner's race, Mr. Bradley took 40 votes to Mr. Bayliss' 24 and Mr. Lile's 21.

The survey also included 14 local election issues that will appear before voters around the county. All but one issue would have passed, according to the results from the survey.

The only issue that did not receive more than 50 percent support was Riverside School District's 2 percent earned income tax that would replace a 0.75 percent income tax. Of the four people who voted for that issue, two were in favor and two were opposed.

The only countywide issue, the Logan County Health District's 1-mill, 10-year replacement levy, was widely supported with 57 respondents opting to renew the levy and 15 opposed to it.

Similar issues got 44 percent support in March and 41 percent last November when the district approached county voters.

This time around, however, the issue is a renewal levy that would not increase the amount of tax property owners pay as opposed to a previously proposed replacement levy that would have generated more money by taxing property owners more.

The results of the other levy issues were as follows:

- Bellefontaine City Schools, 14-9;
- Benjamin Logan Schools, 20-10;
- Indian Lake Schools, 13-2;
- West Liberty-Salem Schools, 4-3;
- Lakeview fire protection, 2-0;
- Russells Point police protection, 2-0;
- West Mansfield street projects, no votes;
- Bokescreek Township fire and squad, 5-0;
- Richland Township fire protection, 1-0;
- Union Township road projects, no votes;
- Washington Township police protection, 5-1;
- Indian Joint Fire District, 7-0.

The survey was optional for guests at the forum at Bellefontaine High School. Approximately 250 were distributed. Many respondents chose not to voice their opinion on all races and issues pertinent to them, and several indicated they still were undecided on which candidate they favored.

The boxes were located outside the auditorium.