

Democrats win control of county

By Jenny DeHuff

jdehuff@journalregister.com

For the first time in over a century, Democrats have taken the majority of the county commissioners' seats in Montgomery.

Democrats Leslie Richards and Josh Shapiro claimed victory over their Republican counterparts Tuesday night.

"We're extraordinarily proud of our victory and looking forward to working in a bipartisan way to tackle the tough issues ahead. We're extremely grateful to the voters of Montgomery County for the confidence they've shown," Shapiro said.

Richards, who said she is looking forward to some much-needed rest after a hectic campaign season, is eager to meet with the planning commission in her first few days in office.

"We've been working really hard, been campaigning on a plan, and knew that if we could implement it, we would win," she said. "I never dreamed of coming in one and two. It feels really, really good."

Incumbent Bruce Castor, a Republican, held the third-highest number of votes as with 77,114 according to Montgomery County Voter Services website. He maintains his seat on the board of commissioners but will remain a minority voice. Though a member of the majority party on the current board, Castor was the odd man out following a power-sharing agreement was made between Republican Chairman Jim Mat-



Photo for the Chronicle/News - CHRISTINE RECKNER

Josh Shapiro and Leslie Richards celebrate their election to the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners Nov. 8.

thews and Democrat Joe Hoeffel.

There are more Democrats than Republicans [in Montgomery County]," Castor said. "The first part is this is a Democratic county and for us to win, we have to turn out a higher percentage than they turn out of theirs. The second is, we started with a million-dollar deficit ... We were unable to raise any

money over the past few years because of being in the minority. Had that not occurred, I would have been able to raise money and we would have not started with a financial deficit. Those things have come back to be the reason for the victory for the Dem-