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Union Co. Commissioners: Rogers, Kuehler win county seats

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With all precincts reporting, Union County school board member Kim Rogers and political newcomer Tracy Kuehler have won the Republican contest for seats on the Union County board of commissioners.

No Democrats filed. So without strong write-in opposition, the two women will take office in December.

In unofficial results, Rogers led with 6,449 votes and Kuehler, a legal researcher from the Sandy Ridge township, had 5,613.

It's the first time two women have been elected to the county board at the same time.

Third was Jonathan Thomas, a Marshville nursing home administrator, with 5,423 votes.

Incumbent commissioner Kevin Pressley lost his bid for re-election, finishing fourth with 4,835 votes.

Other finishers in the seven-way race were: Jeff Gerber of Unionville, 1,831 votes; Jim Boatner of Marvin, 1,399 and Scott Melin of the Marvin area, 910.

The director of Union County's board of elections said Tuesday night there would not be a runoff.

Kuehler said people understand the county's continued problems with issues such as water and sewer can't be ignored.

"People are realizing the direction we have been going in is not working," she said. "I think they were looking for some new leadership."

Rogers and Kuehler will join a board grappling with shortages of water and sewer capacity, overflowing schools and crowded roads.

And last year, Union was labeled the nation's seventh fastest growing county.

Union County commissioners serve four-year terms.

The chairman earns \$10,074 per year; the other commissioners \$8,681.