

September 10, 2008

County Incumbent Fares Well

In Stearns County's District 4, incumbent Leigh Lenzmeier won Tuesday's primary with 969 votes, or 61 percent. He will compete in the November election against Ken Hemmesch, who finished second with 19 percent, or 300 votes.

Lenzmeier, 60, a real estate appraiser from St. Cloud, has been on the county board since 1990. He ran unopposed four years ago. Lenzmeier said he campaigned hard for the primary, knowing local issues and candidates will get overshadowed in the upcoming general election.

"There's going to be such intense national and statewide interest in those big races, it's going to be extremely difficult for down-ballot races to get their message across," he said. Hemmesch, 65, is retired from the Stearns County human services department.

District 4 covers St. Augusta, parts of St. Cloud, and Lynden and Fairhaven townships.