

## Wingfield wins Lynchburg Clerk of Courts seat

Eugene Wingfield will be sworn in today as Lynchburg's new clerk of courts after defeating interim clerk Ron Irvine Tuesday night with 65 percent of the vote, according to unofficial election results.

Wingfield, 55, retired in 2006 from the Lynchburg Police Department with 32 years on the job before going to work in the Lynchburg Commonwealth's Attorney's office as an investigator.

"Tomorrow should be an interesting and busy day," he said Tuesday night.

"I've got to get a few documents prepared to have the vote certified and make an appointment with the circuit court judge to make arrangements to be sworn in as soon as possible. I have to go see the employees in the office and talk to them and assure them things will be OK."

Wingfield won the job with 10,468 votes to Irvine's 5,557, or 34 percent of votes cast. Wingfield carried every precinct in the city.

He will fill the year left on the unexpired term of Larry Palmer, who retired from the clerk's job in January. Irvine, 65, worked in the office for 23 years before retiring as chief deputy in 2008.

Under law, the chief deputy clerk in the office fills the job until a special election when the clerk retires with an unexpired term. When the active deputy clerk declined the position, the judges appointed Irvine.

He goes back into retirement today, but promised a rematch next year.

"This time I'll be retired and I'll have all the time to campaign," Irvine said. "I really didn't have much time to campaign this year."

Wingfield thanked his supporters and said he believed his long reputation for service to the community in his career and volunteer groups carried the election.

The Virginia Compensation Board's minimum pay rate for the job is \$117,814.

According to the state courts' website, the clerk "handles administrative matters for the court and also has authority to probate wills, grant administration of estates and appoint guardians. The clerk is the custodian of the court records and the... office is where deeds are recorded and marriage licenses issued."