

No. 1 in Palo Alto and the Mid-Peninsula



Trump's win now official



LOCAL ELECTOR — Mark Olbert, a San Carlos councilman and one of California's 55 electors, yesterday took a seat in the California Assembly chambers in Sacramento with his Electoral College ballot on the desk in front of him. Photo by Olbert's wife, Barbara.

Locals cast votes in Electoral College

BY EMILY MIBACH
Daily Post Staff Writer

The Electoral College yesterday elected Donald Trump as the nation's 45th president. An attempt to prevent him from reaching the 270-vote threshold for election fizzled out.

Only two of Trump's electors switched their votes while five electors for Hillary Clinton broke ranks and voted for other candidates.

In California, all of the state's 55 electors were required by law to vote for the state's winner, Clinton. Still, the state's electors gathered at the capitol in Sacramento to cast their votes, a largely ceremonial affair.

California's electors included the fol-

lowing mid-Peninsula residents: San Carlos Councilman Mark Olbert, Celine Purcell of Redwood City, Olivia Reyes-Becerra of Stanford and Steve Spinner of Atherton.

Olbert said that while he understands the sentiment of those who changed their votes in other states, he doesn't think that's the way to go.

Voting philosophy

"If you don't vote the way the people in your district voted then you're telling them my vote is the only one that matters," Olbert said. "That's anti-democratic."

Olbert said that he thinks electors should vote for the person that their district supported, and if they disagree with that choice, say so at another time.

Olbert, a retired financial executive, received a few emails and letters before yesterday's vote, some requesting that he vote for another Republican other than Trump.

However, Olbert had no problem casting his vote for Clinton, whom his district overwhelmingly supported, having prevailed in San Mateo County with 75% of the vote.

The electors met in the state Assembly chamber and received ballots for

Clinton and her running mate, Tim Kaine, a senator from Virginia. Each elector signed their ballot. Then the ballots were collected and the results were read aloud.

He said they also had to sign other documents attesting to the fact that they voted for Clinton. In all, he said he signed 15 pieces of paper.

Olbert said the only real excitement in the chambers occurred when House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's daughter, Christine Pelosi, suggested a resolution calling for a bi-partisan investigation into Russia's role in the election.

"That (resolution) had the most acclamations and energy around it," Olbert said.

Each elector was allowed to bring two guests. Olbert brought his wife Barbara and San Carlos City Manager Jeff Maltbie.

He said both he and Maltbie are students of history and politics.

"I thought he may enjoy watching it and clearly he did," Olbert said.

Anti-Trump push fails

An effort by anti-Trump forces to persuade Republican electors to abandon the president-elect came to practically nothing and the process unfolded largely according to its traditions. Trump got 304 votes and Clinton had 227. It takes 270 Electoral College votes to win the presidency.

Trump lost only two electors, both in Texas. One voted for John Kasich, the Ohio governor, and the other voted for former Texas Rep. Ron Paul.

Clinton lost four electors in Washington state — three voted for former Secretary of State Colin Powell and one voted for Native American tribal leader Faith Spotted Eagle. She also lost an elector in Hawaii to Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders. Clinton beat Sanders in the Democratic primaries.

Several Democratic electors in other states tried to vote for protest candidates but they either changed their votes to Clinton or were replaced.

The Electoral College has 538 members, with the number allocated to each state based on how many representatives it has in the House plus one for each senator. The District of Columbia gets three, despite the fact that the home to Congress has no vote in Congress.

Republican electors were deluged with emails, phone calls and letters urging them not to support Trump. Many of the emails were part of coordinated campaigns.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.