

# Mountain Democrat

PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA

## [News](#)

### Raffety elected to EID Board of Directors; Day retains his seat

By [Dawn Hodson](#) From page A1 | November 11, 2016



Mike Raffety

Two people were elected to the El Dorado Irrigation District board Tuesday, one an incumbent and one a newcomer to the job.

Mike Raffety, retired editor of the Mountain Democrat, ended up on top in the race for the Division 3 board position.

Winning by a comfortable margin, Raffety beat incumbent Bill George, garnering 43.21 percent of the vote. George, who has served for 13 years, came in second with 30.8 percent. Also running as a newcomer was Craig Schmidt, who came in third at 25.7 percent.

Raffety covered board meetings for the Mountain Democrat for many years and has toured many of EID's facilities.

Collecting campaign signs Wednesday, Raffety thanked those who voted for him and those who allowed him to place his signs on their property. Attributing his win to a "total campaign," he said it included signs, a media campaign, mailers, going door to door and his ballot statement.

George said he was digesting what happened as he had not expected to lose. "I'm disappointed not to be re-elected with the public not taking advantage of my experience locally and statewide," he said. "That's 10 to 12 years of effort thrown out the window as far as making progress as part of the Association of California Water Agencies and other boards. So that's my big regret, especially with the water rights problem looming in front of us. But life goes on."

Schmidt was also disappointed but said the high rate of voter participation showed a great deal of interest in "our water supply, rates and rising debt." He thanked his supporters, wished Raffety the best as EID Division 3's new representative and thanked outgoing board member Bill George for his 13 years

of service.

In the race for the Division 5 seat incumbent Alan Day earned 65.59 percent of the vote against challenger Charles Smith, who received 34. This will be Day's second term.

"I'm very thankful for the overwhelming support of the voters and I'm going to keep on fighting for 'em!" Day wrote in an email.

Smith was unavailable for comment.

George Osborne was automatically re-elected to his Division 1 post in June as no one challenged him.

The new board members will be sworn into office in December after the election results are certified.