

## And the Winner Is...

Written by Steve Frank  
Friday, 12 November 2010 13:08

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...maybe still undetermined. The margin of Vince Gable over Billy Ralph Winkler in the district 2 Watauga Commission race shrank by three votes in the canvass conducted this morning by the Watauga Board of Elections—65 votes or four-tenths of a percent.

The canvass involved provisional ballots, votes that after the November 2nd tallies, cut into Gable's lead. Winkler and Gable sat next to each other during the canvass in the small courtroom in the Courthouse basement as the tallies were read. Winkler said he has until 5 Monday to decide whether to call for a re-count in the race, and said part of his decision will come based on the 24th Superior Court Judge's race between Hal Harrison and Gary Gavenus. That race initially saw Harrison as the winner, only to have the tally swing in favor of Gavenus. If that race has a re-count, Winkler said, the expense to the county to add the district 2 Commission race would be minimal, as opposed to recounting only the one race.