

Outspoken levy foe wins Fairfield seat Board shake-up



CARRIE COCHRAN/JOURNALNEWS

FAIRFIELD SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE ARNOLD ENGEL reads election tallies to his supporters Tuesday night at the Fairfield home of friend Sandy Fletcher as his wife, Susan Engel, looks on. According to the board of elections, Engel was the second-leading vote-getter, winning one of three seats.

New voices top incumbent



GREG LYNCH/JOURNALNEWS

KAREN SCHWARTZ OF FAIRFIELD votes Tuesday at the Fairfield Fire Department Headquarters. Fairfield voters elected Arnold Engel, Citizens for Accountability and Results in Education founder and vocal critic of school funding issues to a seat on the Fairfield Board of Education.

Engel, Morris, Murray to help lead schools

By **ERIC SCHWARTZBERG**
COX NEWS SERVICE

FAIRFIELD — For Arnold Engel, the fourth time really was the charm.

Engel, founder and president of Citizens for Accountability and Results in Education, placed second in this year's seven-candidate Fairfield school board race, garnering 16.74 percent of the vote and earning his first victory in four bids for the post.

Mark Morris earned the most support with 5,918 votes, or 17.24 percent, according to complete but unofficial results from the Butler County Board of Elections. Engel finished with 5,748 votes while and Dan Murray got third with 5,312 votes, or 15.4 percent, according to the board of elections.

The new school board will be absent

the one incumbent in the race — Eugene Ball — who lost his bid to keep his seat. Ball finished in fourth with 4,709, or 13.71 percent.

"It's been a long road of hope," Engel said, adding he owes the win to the CARE volunteers who distributed more than 75,000 fliers between December 2004 and Tuesday. "I couldn't have done it without all the people in our group."

Engel previously ran in a bevy of political races, including the Fairfield school board in 1999, 2001, 2003, as well as Ohio Senate in 2000 and the Ohio House of Representatives in 2002. While he did not run for office last year, he kept busy by coming to the aid of various individuals and groups speaking out against school spending practices.

And why does Engel believe voters supported him enough for a win this time around?

PLEASE SEE BOARD | A6