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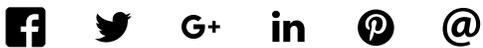
Caudill to face Davis this November

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Elwood Caudill Jr. will face Kim Davis for county clerk in November.

By Addie Hogan



MOREHEAD - Elwood Caudill Jr. will face Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis this fall after winning the Democratic primary election.

Caudill beat the other three candidates with 1,923 votes.

Among the contenders was David Ermold who was denied a marriage license by Davis in 2015.

Also on the ballot were Jamey Jessee and Nashia Fife.

Vote totals included Caudill, 1,923; Ermold, 873; Jessee, 661; Fife, 77.

Rowan County has 9,123 registered Democrats.

Davis spent five days in jail for refusing to issue marriage licenses to same sex couples which she said violated her religious beliefs and freedoms. Her refusal became the focus of national media attention.

Her cause was celebrated widely by conservative groups and politicians. Two Republican presidential candidates at the time - Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee - came to the jail in Carter County where Davis was incarcerated as did Republican candidate for Kentucky governor, Matt Bevin, who went on to win the 2016 election.

Davis was elected as a Democrat in 2014 but later changed her registration to Republican.

Ermold's challenge generated widespread attention for Rowan County again.

Ermold's campaign raised just over \$200,000, from mostly out-of-state donations including two from Hollywood stars Susan Sarandon and Amy Schumer.

He chose not to allow the press inside his campaign headquarters Tuesday night.

Ermold, a 14-year resident of Rowan County, is an assistant English professor at the University of Pikeville.

Caudill, a lifelong resident of the county, has worked in the Property Valuation Administrator office for more than 20 years.

Jessee is also a lifelong Rowan County resident and director of Northfork Senior Living in Morehead.

Fife is an adjunct instructor at Morehead State University.

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