

## ELECTION

### **Brady, Pinkerton chart course for VVC's future**

By Rene Ray De La Cruz

November 10, 2016

Staff Writer

VICTORVILLE — Incumbents John Pinkerton and Joseph W. Brady took an early lead and remained the front runners as they battled for two seats on the Victor Valley College Board of Trustees.

Unofficial final election results from the San Bernardino County Elections Office Wednesday showed Pinkerton with 27 percent of the vote, followed by Brady with 24 percent of the total 108,905 ballots counted.

Candidate Thomas J. Kerman held 21 percent of the votes, followed by Margaret H. Kagy with 13 percent, David “Wes” Gregg with 9 percent and Bob Conaway with just over 4 percent.

“I thought the vote for John and myself was a great win, but I credit (VVC President/ Superintendent) Roger Wagner for bringing stability to the college,” Brady told the Daily Press. “Roger was the one who worked with the board to get VVC’s accreditation back, to balance the budget and to move the school forward.”

Brady said Wagner is a “true leader” who sees the big picture and, like an NFL quarterback, calls the right plays at the right time. He added that “Wagner is a great leader and great leaders always get results.”

According to Brady, some individuals do not like his “fiscally conservative actions,” adding that many people have tried to have him removed from the board after the group “accomplished so much in the last three years.”

Brady said the one thing that he found odd about the election was how one VVC board candidate showed up to one candidate event and showed little interest in the position.

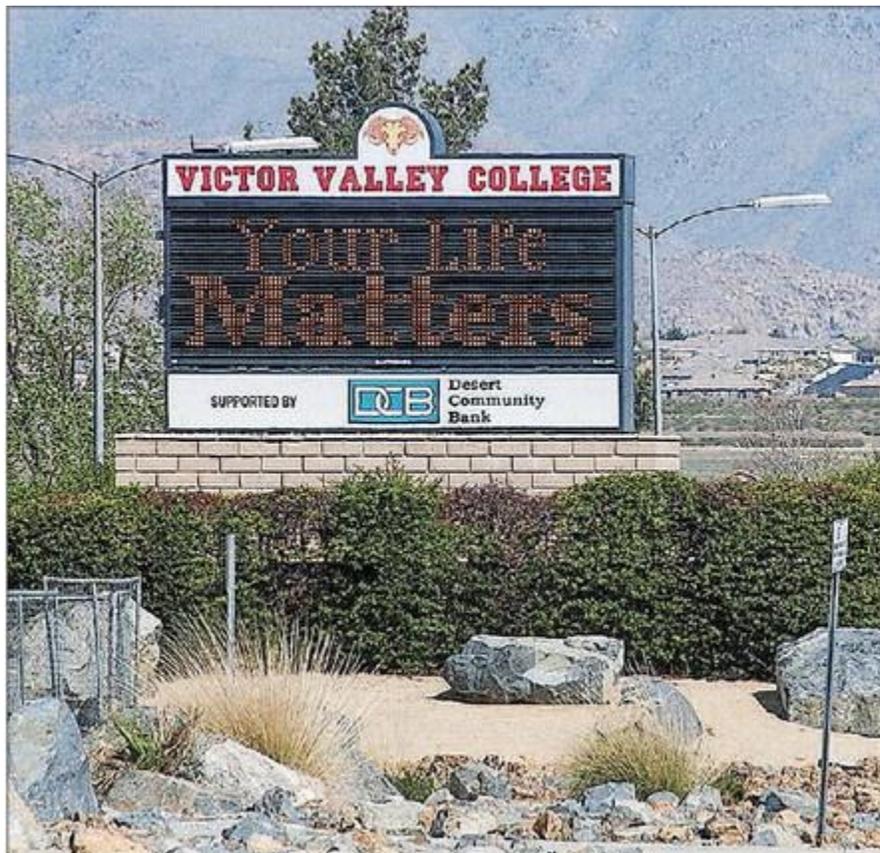
“How can people run for a position and say they care when they don’t show up for a meeting,” Brady said. “That just reveals a lot about that person.”

Despite their differences, Brady said he and Pinkerton will continue to work hard to insure the duo, the board and Wagner, who he calls “a rock star,” work for the betterment of VVC.

Brady said he and Pinkerton have not always seen eye-to-eye on many issues, but added they’ve “become like brothers” as they work to serve the board, faculty and students “There’s a lot more to accomplish, but change takes planning and time,” Brady said. “You can’t turn the Titanic around in a bathtub, you just can’t do it. Especially an organization that not in the private sector.”

Pinkerton, who is also a high school counselor, told the Daily Press earlier he is happy with the direction VVC is going. He added the board should continue to make improvements to increase course offerings and make the process of adding classes easier for students.

The Elections Office reported there is an estimated 222,000 county-wide ballots remaining to be counted. Those ballots include provisional ballots, mail ballots that require further signature review, and ballots cast that were damaged and require duplication added to results, but it was unclear exactly how many would affect the VVC race. Updated results will be posted at 4 p.m. Thursday. —Rene Ray De La Cruz may be reached at 760-951-6227, RDeLaCruz@VVDailyPress.com or on Twitter @ DP\_ReneDeLaCruz.



Unofficial final election results from the San Bernardino County Elections Office Wednesday showed incumbent John Pinkerton with 27 percent of the vote, followed by fellow board member Joseph Brady with 24 percent of the total 108,905 ballots counted. DAILY PRESS FILE PHOTO