

PASSAIC CITY

Passaic mayor and Team Passaic slate see landslide victories in municipal elections

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PASSAIC — Tuesday's municipal elections were a wipeout win for Team Passaic, as the ticket headed by Mayor Hector Lora tallied more than 88% of the votes cast.

The unofficial tally Tuesday night had Lora outpacing mayoral challengers Diomedes Minaya and Jeffrey Dye, with 3,913 votes to Minaya's 304 and Dye's 179.

Lora called it a validation of the work by the administration and City Council to reinvent itself. The city is in the midst of a redevelopment boom in all four wards, Lora said.

"Look around. We are rebuilding the 100 steps, South Street," Lora said. "We are adding a 7-Eleven, Wendy's, Taco Bell. We are uniting Dundee Island Park."

Next on the agenda, he said, is a makeover of federal housing at Aspen Place.

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"People may say it can't be done. Let them," Lora said. "They said that four years ago about the train tracks."

The mayor is referring to the removal of the New York and Greenwood Lake rail line and transfer station that for years had been a blight on the city's east side. It was a massive effort that saw the last of the trains roll out last fall.

In the council race, three incumbents prevailed. Jose Garcia was the top vote-getter, with 3,361. Terrance Love had 3,315 and Daniel Schwartz, 3,169. Challenger Lisa Wozniak tallied 495 votes.

Love said the result did not surprise him much.

"When you put the work in, you expect the results," Love said.

About 14% of the city's 31,000 voters turned out, not counting mail-in and provisional ballots.

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