

Foro recalled as Hall wins in a landslide

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Surprise Councilwoman Gwyn Foro was recalled by a landslide Tuesday, becoming the sixth council incumbent to depart in less than a year.

Former Planning and Zoning Commissioner Skip Hall won the District 6 seat with 1,177 votes, or a whopping 76 percent, based on preliminary election results. Foro received 319 votes, or about 21 percent.

With Foro's defeat, Surprise residents have all new representation save one: District 5's Joe Johnson.

Incumbents came under fire after former City Manager Jim Rumpeltes accused the body last June of operating through "threats and coercion" and lining up votes outside public view. An Attorney General's probe of alleged Open Meeting Law violations is ongoing.

Foro predicted Hall would have an easy time in her seat.

"He can walk in and do nothing because I've already done it," she said.

Foro's critics called her disrespectful of constituents and chided her for supporting council benefits such as a flat auto allowance and a retroactive retirement plan.

Hall pledged to help bring stability to the growing city.

"I tell you, I'm honored," Hall said. "I'm going to do my best to meet the expectations of my District 6."

Foro will not step down until ballot results are made official March 27. Hall will complete her term, expiring at the end of 2009, and then face re-election.

A third recall candidate, Chet Neier, withdrew from

the race, but not soon enough to be removed from the ballot. He received 43 votes, or 3 percent.

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