

Miller Defeats Fultz to Capture Open Lake Wales City Commission Seat

[Lake Wales News](#), Apr 08, 2026

The Lake Wales City Commission, and perhaps the board's approach to issues including water resources, development, and community relations, may take a slightly different bent after the election of Terri Miller in Tuesday's municipal election.



Terri Miller was smiling among a large group of supporters who gathered at the Lake Wales Latte Lounge Tuesday night to await the election results.

Miller took 746 votes, or 54.9 percent, to 638 for Fultz. Some 50 supporters gathered at the Lake Wales Latte Lounge Tuesday night to await the election returns, with many sharing sips of celebratory bubbly when the results were announced.

The two candidates, former mayor Eugene Fultz and political newcomer Terri Miller, conducted a surprisingly low-key campaign after Fultz declined to participate in a traditional forum, citing scheduling conflicts. With few public appearances and little debate, voters relied upon direct mail, news media stories and advertising to shape their opinions.

Fultz was the city's first popularly-elected mayor. While Fultz had presided over the approval of large new residential developments, Miller took a nuanced approach to the recent booming growth, saying that "many people feel that development is moving faster than our infrastructure and housing market can comfortably absorb. Those concerns are real and deserve serious attention from city leaders."

Miller served as a network security administrator at Florida's Natural Growers for some 20 years before starting her own businesses. Miller, 58, is active with Rotary and has served as president of both the Lake Wales Breakfast Rotary Club and Rotary on the Ridge.

Miller will be the second woman on the five-person board, which had been all-male until last year, when Carol Gillespie took won election, defeating Danny Krueger.

Commissioner Keith Thompson was automatically re-elected to a second three-year term on Seat 2 after drawing no opponent.

Miller will be sworn in on May 7 to a seat that had been held by Robin Gibson. Gibson also serves as the chair of the Community Redevelopment Agency.

Gibson, 89, decided to retire from the commission after planning to sell his home within the district and move into a downtown apartment.

Having had a role in creating Florida's CRA statute in 1985, Gibson's direction of the [Lake Wales CRA](#) turned that long-dormant entity into a forceful redevelopment engine, overseeing the issuance of bonds that have sparked the [Lake Wales Connected](#) plan streetscaping projects downtown.

The 1,384 votes cast reflected the low-key campaign. Recent city elections had drawn an average of 2,200 voters.