

Brett Dungan elected mayor of Bayou La Batre, LA

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BAYOU LA BATRE, Alabama – Brett Dungan has spent most of the last four decades as a south Mobile County businessman, but soon he will move into virgin territory as Bayou La Batre’s newest politician.

Dungan was elected mayor, winning the runoff election against opponent Henry Barnes on Tuesday night, garnering 56 percent of the vote. The former president of shipbuilder Master Marine, Inc., will finish out the three-plus years remaining on ousted former mayor Stan Wright’s term.

It was a much closer race than the primary, with Barnes receiving 44 percent of the vote, compared to just 26 percent in the Aug. 13 primary.



Running on a platform of business leadership and experience, as well as transparency, Dungan said his plan is to have a transition team in place as soon as possible, and within 30 days “find out what the state of the union really is.”



Voter turnout was up slightly compared to the primary, which left Dungan less than 2 percent short of the 50 percent, plus one vote, needed for the outright win. He said it was an encouraging sign that, contrasted against light turnout in the Alabama 1st District congressional, more folks turned out to cast their ballots in the runoff.

“That’s what’s exciting, is that people voted (today) who haven’t voted in 10 years,” Dungan said. “And they really feel a part of that.”

“That’s what the most important of thing is, to get people feeling like we can come up with governance that they can feel included in.”



Dungan said that after his backyard victory party Tuesday night, his plan was to sleep late on Wednesday. As for his priorities approaching his new duties at Town Hall, he said providing solid leadership as part of the Alabama RESTORE Act council, which controls billions of dollars in penalties paid by BP to the Gulf Coast states to repair ecological and economic damage from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010.

Bayou La Batre’s mayor has one of the council’s 10 seats.

“That’s really the No. 1 issue, and it’s time sensitive,” Dungan said.