



Union Township elects new treasurer

By **Randi Shaffer**, *The Morning Sun*

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Union Township's Republican treasurer Ruth Ayris has been de-seated from her position following Tuesday's elections.

Democratic candidate Kimberly Rice took the position with 51.9 percent of the vote to the 47.9 percent Ayris received.

Several votes from a Union Township precinct had to be recounted Wednesday afternoon after [poll worker errors lead to miscounts](#) and unsecured ballot transportation.

Ayris stirred up controversy recently when she declined to comment on the state of Union Township finances following a Republican party advertisement that accused the township of mismanagement of its funds.

When [Ayris was questioned by a resident](#) at a recent meeting whether the Union Township budget had been "run into the ground," Treasurer Ruth Ayris said she didn't believe so.

"I think the reports ... tell us that we're not losing ground," she said.

However, when asked later that week if she had any insight into the advertisement claims made by the Michigan Republican Party, Ayris declined comment.

"I don't know that I really have any information for you," Ayris said. "I am the township treasurer, but I'm going to decline."

Union Township states the statutory duties of Ayris include keeping an account of township receipts/revenues and expenditures.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Randi Shaffer has been the Isabella County reporter for the Morning Sun since 2012. An alumna of CMU, she is in the process of obtaining her MSA degree. Obsessions include hockey, yoga and vegetables. Reach the author at rshaffer@michigannewspapers.com.

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