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## Sign's clear: McAllister is thankful

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The tall man wearing a suit and holding a sign on a busy downtown street Wednesday morning was Dan McAllister, the newly re-elected county tax collector/treasurer. His 3-by-4-foot sign said: "Thank you, San Diego, for another term."

"I think this was the right thing to do," explained McAlister when contacted yesterday at his office. "People don't say thank you enough." He stood near the Front Street I-5 off-ramp from 7 to 9 a.m., then returned at 5 p.m. to the I-5 First Avenue on-ramp to catch commuters heading home.

He said motorists honked, put thumbs up, yelled "Go Dan!" and even cradled their cell phones to clap their hands. One fellow parked his car and walked over to congratulate him.

It's not the first time McAllister has taken his message to the streets. "I did this when I was first elected four years ago," he said.

His handwritten sign caused his concerned 18-year-old daughter, Katie, to caution: "They're going to think you're asking for money." (But, then again, he *is* the tax collector.)

### Taxing career pays off

It used to be that people took aim at the tax collector, portrayed as a villain as far back as Biblical times. So it's somewhat surprising that the candidate for tax collector ended up attracting the most votes of the four candidates running for countywide offices – especially when you consider Tuesday's election fell on the devilish date of 06/06/06. One explanation is that McAllister was one of two candidates who ran unopposed. The other was District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis.

### Support from afar

Chula Vista mayoral candidate Cheryl Cox staged an election night party at the South Bay Fish & Grill restaurant in Chula Vista. The only problem was nobody in attendance had a computer to track the election results. So she and her husband, county Supervisor Greg Cox, quickly enlisted the outside help of their daughter, Emily, who monitored voting updates on her home computer and relayed reports to the party. It didn't matter that Emily was 3,000 miles away at Boston University. It was good practice for her. She is studying for her master's degree in communications.

### San Diego Scene

Sharon Robinson, the daughter of the late baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson, visited San Diego on Thursday to personally congratulate two youngsters. In an essay contest on breaking barriers, Preuss School elementary student Adolfo Marin was a grand-prize winner and Temecula Valley High student Madoree Pipkins was a grand-prize finalist in their respective age categories. Robinson consults for Major League Baseball, which sponsors the annual writing contest. While she lives in Tampa, Fla., she must have felt at home making the award presentations at the Jackie Robinson Family YMCA . .

Football Hall of Famer Lynn Swann, who is running for governor of Pennsylvania, was seen dining at The Palm on Wednesday with Ben Haddad, a former member of Gov. Pete Wilson's Cabinet. Lest anyone think Haddad was being wooed for a possible Pennsylvania government post, Haddad is quick to explain that he and the former Pittsburgh Steeler were once colleagues at USC. Swann was in town to talk to the Lincoln Club as part of a swing through Southern California to shore up Republican support.

### Life after 'Apprentice'

Kelly Perdew, the winner of the second season of TV's "The Apprentice" reality show, says he contemplated moving back to Carlsbad, where he lived before making his debut on national TV. Instead, though, he is settling up the coast in Santa Monica after his one-year stint as Donald Trump's apprentice. Perdew passed on Trump's offer to remain with the organization, preferring to follow his own entrepreneurial path.


So, what is life like after "The Apprentice"? Perdew runs a venture capital fund, hosts a "GI Factory" TV show, writes a column for Military.com, invests in self-storage units and hopes to produce a reality TV show. He also wrote a book on leadership. As for Donald Trump's hair, Perdew has the good sense not to comment.

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