Pat Screen Close Winner

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Baton Rouge Mayor Pat Screen has won a second four-year term by a narrow margin and challenger and former mayor W.M. “Woody” Dumas says the slender margin is a sign that Screen had better watch out.

Complete but unofficial returns from Saturday’s open primary showed Screen beating Dumas and two other candidates with 51 percent of the 120,412 votes cast.

Screen, who finished with 61,492 votes, said the victory showed that voters agreed with his campaign slogan: “When you think about the future, Pat Screen makes sense today.”

But Dumas, who had 38,227 votes — 32 percent — said the fact that Screen was only 2,500 votes away from a runoff shows that he had “better straighten up and fly right. He’s not as good as he thinks he is.”

School Board member Jim Talbot had 14,030 votes, or 12 percent, and developer Gary Cangelosi 6,663, or 6 percent.

The black vote made the difference for Screen, who is white.

The turnout was good