

With votes still out, Brower leads Adams in North Slope mayoral race

If mid-count ballot trends hold true, Eugene Brower of Barrow has defeated his old political ally, Jacob Adams for the North Slope Borough mayor's office.

With 24 absentee ballots to come in from Kaktovik, Atkasook and Anaktuvik Pass, Brower led Adams by 27 votes. There are 107 challenged ballots to count, according to

Adams who indicated there is a strong possibility he will ask for a recount.

At press time on Monday, Brower's total vote was 583, Adams was 556; Arnold Brower, Sr., 43.

Eugene Brower said his campaign staff had contacted people in the incoming villages and were told that Brower could count on receiving four

votes from Anaktuvik Pass; four from Kaktovik, and 10 from Atkasook.

Brower was not being overly optimistic because of the challenged ballot situation but said he feels fairly confident that he would emerge the winner when all the challenged votes were counted. That was scheduled to take place on Tuesday.

Brower said he believed his campaign of going to house-to-house in the villages to meet people on a one-to-one basis, helped his chances. Adams' campaign was more directed at group and village meetings.

Brower also said he made no promises to the voters except to do his best.

Brower's campaign weighted heavily on advertisements in

publications and on television.

He also had an ample supply of Eugene Brower campaign gimmicks — potholders, pens, matches and other identified items.

The final count will be conducted Tuesday and, if no re-count is requested, the new mayor will be sworn in that night.