



VOTER

Student Mary Jordan registers to vote with Chester Beverly, registrar.

PHOTO: SMITHIE DENNING

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## Bond brings \$6.3 million to WCC

By BRYAN HEDRICK

On Tuesday, November 2, 1993, the bond referendum for North Carolina's Community Colleges passed, meaning that Wayne Community College will receive a \$6.3 million allotment.

These funds will be used to construct a building to upgrade the aviation maintenance and technology program as well as provide additional classrooms on the main campus for the health and literacy programs.

Within Wayne County, WCC officials worked feverishly to round up local support for the bond's passage.

WCC organized an information booth on the bond during the Wayne County Fair, September 27-October 2.

Staff and faculty, members of the Board of Trustees, and members of the Foundation Board passed out brochures and pamphlets to inform voters about the referendum and WCC's needs.

On Tuesday, October 5, 1993, three students accompanied members of the Board of Trustees and other WCC officials to the Wayne County

Administration Building for the regularly scheduled meeting of the Wayne County Commissioners.

The purpose of the meeting was to obtain the endorsement of the commissioners.

Students Darrell Deburkart, aviation program; SGA President Kevin Smith, engineering curriculum; and Rose Parker, currently in the College Transfer Associate of Science curriculum awaiting admission into the nursing program, attended the meeting.

Senator John Kerr and Representative Carolyn Russell spoke in support of the referendum. "We need to be prudent in what we put in place for the year 2020," said Russell.

During the meeting the board posed questions regarding repayment of the bond and other financial ramifications of passing the bond.

The Commissioners then reached a majority decision to support the referendum, six voting in favor while one abstained.

On Monday, October 12, WCC supported an in-house voter registration drive to give non-registered students a chance to vote in the election.

WCC also hosted a live remote broadcast with WGBR (1150 AM) from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Friday, October 29.

During the broadcast interviewers Bob Hill and Rick Heilmann discussed various aspects of the bond issue with WCC President Ed Wilson, faculty members, and students.

The bond issue passed with a 62 percent approval rate within the county as opposed to 57 percent approval statewide.

Overall, the vote statewide was 57 percent in favor of the bond while 43 percent were against.

Within the county 4,521 voted yes on the bond while only 2,816 voted no.

The \$6.3 million represents the fifth largest allotment out the \$250 million appropriated statewide.

Arguments in favor of passing the bond were North Carolina's triple A bond rating, the highest possible, and the relatively low interest rates currently in effect.

Also, supporters of the bond emphasized that taxes will not rise because of the



Senator John Kerr and Representative Carolyn Russell speak at the Wayne County Commissioners' Meeting.  
PHOTO: ROSE PARKER