

# Blacks Still Want Michaux —Some Consider Write-In



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In his effort to win the 2nd congressional district seat, H.M. "Mickey" Michaux touched base with a broad segment of people and voters in the district. In these pictures, Michaux is shown campaigning with some of the people he talked with.

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By Joseph E. Green  
Black voters across the 2nd district who supported H.M. "Mickey" Michaux for the U.S. Congress are upset with white voters and with white politicians who "sat on their hands" during the run-off between the Durham lawyer-businessman and I.T. Valentine, Valentine, a Nashville attorney, won the July 27th run-off between the two men.  
There is a possibility that many black voters will write-in Michaux's name during the general election between Valentine and the Republican candidate, Jack Marin.  
Michaux has not endorsed the idea of a write-in vote, but has not said he will resist one. Valentine, according to sources, has been seeking a meeting with the black man he defeated.  
"One of the things that Mickey will probably discuss with Valentine is the racist message that Valentine got across during the campaign," one political observer close to Michaux said. "We feel that Valentine appealed to the racist sentiments of white voters, while we played the race issue straight. We talked about qualifications, ideas, jobs, and programs, and he talked about color. We don't know right

now if he can represent us."  
During the run-off, Michaux received about 50,000 votes, losing to Valentine by about 8,000 votes. The difference came in the white votes. An analysis of election returns showed that white voters throughout the district voted overwhelmingly for Michaux.  
One white voter who had been asked by a white Michaux supporter, said that he "could not bring himself to vote for a black man." Jim O'Riely, a white Michaux supporter, described the election as a "racial muscle contest."  
O'Riely, who did analyses of the vote with the aid of a computer, said, "outside of Durham, Michaux got few white votes in the District.  
Michaux and his aides had hoped that some of the voters who cast their ballots for James Ramsey, a white lawyer from Roxboro, who came in third during the June election, would support Michaux during the run-off.  
But from a study of the vote, it appears that almost all of the votes that went to Ramsey during the first election, went to Valentine in the run-off.



Frank Jones, a Wilson County businessman and Michaux coordinator there, said, "It appeared that white voters could not see through color. They could not bring themselves to vote for a black man."  
Jones said that blacks in Wilson were going to keep the "Michaux for Congress" headquarters open. "We are going to register people day and night," Jones said, "We have to get people on the books. There is no excuse for people not being registered. If we have to match them (whites), vote for vote, we are going to do it. We did not win the first time around, but we will on the second."  
Jones said that he was personally disappointed in Governor Jim Hunt who remained neutral during the run-off. "The governor could have made the difference," Jones said, "I am going to Raleigh and request a meeting."  
Jones expressed the sentiment held by many black Democrats who feel the party takes them for granted.  
"They think they have us in their back pockets," he said. Those days are over. You don't kick a man today and ask him to kiss you tomorrow," he said.  
When asked if Wilson County black voters

would support Valentine against Marin, Joens said, "I can't answer that right now. There are many questions that need to be answered."  
Said one Durham lawyer, who has voted for Democrats all of her life, "I am going to vote in November and I am going to vote for Marin. I never voted for a Republican, but I am tired of the Democrats nominating just anybody and then thinking that we blacks will just follow along. They (the white Democrats) had a chance with Michaux and they blew it."  
Many political observers said that Michaux has started "something" across the district with his effort. "He showed us that it could be done," said Pat Gill, a Michaux aide. "Many of the headquarters have not closed down and many are beginning to register people who have never voted before. It is going to be interesting to see what happens."  
"What Michaux did for this state was more important than sending him to Washington," Jones said, "He is a symbol. For the first time, we are beginning to realize the extent of our political muscle. This campaign has not come to an end, it has just begun," he added.