

Campaign '80 Special Edition

# 12 Black Candidates Seeking Election In Tuesday's Primary

Special To The Post

Twelve black candidates will be seeking election when voters go to the polls Tuesday, May 6. If they are all successful, this would make the largest number of black elected officials in Charlotte-Mecklenburg history.

The name of the late Senator Fred D. Alexander, who died April 13, will also be on the ballot. If voters elect Sen. Alexander posthumously, a committee of the Cabarrus and Mecklenburg Democratic Party will appoint a candidate to take Alexander's place on the November ballot.

Monday that same committee nominated Rowe Motley to fill Alexander's unexpired term. Gov. Jim Hunt is expected to accept their nomination. If Alexander is elected, it is expected that Motley will be named for the November election. However, Motley's name will not appear on the May 6 primary ballot.

Black leaders are urging their communities to vote for Alexander to assure continued black representation in the N. C. Senate. Alexander was the only black N. C. senator at the time of his death.

Also running in the Democratic primary are Bertha Maxwell, State House of Representatives; T. Michael Todd, District Court Judge; and Raleigh Bynum, L. C. Coleman and Bob Walton for County Commission.

Blacks running in the non-partisan School Board election are Phil Berry, John Elliott Jr., Wade Mosley, Maggie Lamb Nicholson, Ella Scarborough, Sarah Belle Stevenson and Bill White.

**CANDIDATE PROFILES:**

**Dr. Bertha Maxwell**, director and founder of the African and Afro-American Studies Center at UNCC, is seeking her first elected office as State Representative. If elected she will be the first black woman in the house and the first elected black woman in Charlotte.

"Three-fourths of the human race is represented in Raleigh. A fourth is missing - the black woman. I represent that missing link" said Maxwell.

She sees the key campaign issues as inflation, the elderly, adult and juvenile corrections, public education and mental health.

"I am concerned that the voiceless people are going to be chopped out when budgets and programs are



L. C. Coleman  
...County Commission



Raleigh Bynum  
...County Commission



Bob Walton  
...County Commission



Bertha Maxwell  
...State House of Rep.



Phil Berry  
...School Board



Rowe Motley  
...Senatorial Nominee



Wade Mosley  
...School Board



Maggie Lamb Nicholson  
...School Board



Ella Scarborough  
...School Board



Sarah Stevenson  
...School Board



John Elliott Jr.  
...School Board



T. Michael Todd  
...District Court Judge

cut," said Maxwell.

She has been a teacher and school administrator, and served as Vice President for Administrative Affairs and Planning at Johnson C. Smith. She is co-founder of the Afro-American Cultural Center, and a member of the boards of the Mental Health Center, the Drug Education Center and the Arts and Science Council.

T. Michael Todd is running to retain his seat on the bench of the 26th District Court. One of the youngest judges in the state, Todd was appointed to the new judgeship at age 28. He is the only black district judge.

A native of Charlotte's westside, Todd attended Myers Park High School, Duke University and Vanderbilt Law School.

He worked for the State Attorney General's office, Chambers Law Firm, and the Legal Aid Society, before being appointed judge.

"Because I am young I can serve as a role model

for youth who are in trouble," said Todd. "They can identify with me. Working hard paid off for me. It can for them, too."

Dr. Raleigh Bynum, candidate for County Commission, is running for his first public office. He sees the main issues as City-County consolidation, the county day care program, continuation of the mental health program, and equalizing the benefits of Charlotte's growth.

"I favor letting the voters decide about City-County consolidation, after they have all the facts," said Bynum.

He also feels strongly that the 9 county day care centers should be refunded. "If not, the parents of 325 children won't be able to find affordable day care. Most of them are low-income parents, who will have to quit their jobs and instead of being income producers, they will become income consumers," he said.

Bynum, an optometrist,

is a member of the Westside Professional Association, president of Bethlehem Center, and past president of the National Optometric Association.

L. C. Coleman, is running for a third time for County Commission. Two years ago he finished 5th in the Democratic primary.

The main issues in Coleman's campaign are health care, balanced growth and City-County government.

He thinks the westside needs a public hospital, and that there should be more hospital beds for intermediate care. He also wants free ambulance service for senior citizens living on less than \$200 a month.

Coleman wants more citizen input on Mecklenburg's development, with a balanced growth plan of industry and housing.

On the issue of City-County consolidation, he favors a referendum.

Coleman is a westside businessman and leader of the Northwest Community Action Organization. He is

an advocate for senior citizens' rights.

Bob Walton is running to re-capture a seat on the County Commission which he lost in the November, 1979 election after serving one term. "Experience" is his main issue.

"As we face an economic crisis and reduction of state and federal funds and programs, my experience both as commissioner and as a banker will be valuable in examining budgets and resources," he said.

Walton favors City-County consolidation because he says it will stabilize taxes, provide better planning and coordination of services, and make government more representative of all citizens.

He has called for a joint study of the issue so that a referendum could be placed on the November election ballot. If this fails, he would push for district representation on County Commission.

Other issues in Walton's see BLACKS Page 4B