

## More blacks move into New Orleans than first thought

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trouble in winning city/parish elections. We have to remember that New Orleans was 68 percent black in population prior to Katrina, with over 165,000 more blacks than all other racial group numbers combined. About half of all registered voters were black Democrats.

Even if blacks are not returning to the city in the proportion, 73 percent, that comprised the evacuees, it appears a majority, about 57 percent, of the returnees are black.

"As the city continues to repopulate, blacks have regained their numerical dominance, a trend that will continue until New Orleans reaches its 'carrying capacity' of just over 300,000 around the end of the year. Then the city will grow slowly if at all for some time. But there will be an estimated 115,242 Blacks present in New Orleans by April 22, as opposed to about 103,000 non-Blacks."

"In fact, using precinct-level data (442 total in Orleans), knowledge of only three things, the number of black Democrats registered, the number of white Democrats registered, and the number of white Republicans registered, produced models of extremely high predictive quality for total vote for a Democrat or Republican candidate."

According to Sadow, the statistics do not favor Republicans at all. His numbers estimate that 53,803 black Democrats are predicted to be in New Orleans on Election Day, compared to less than 18,000 white Republicans. And even if, unrealistically, one theorized that every single white Democrat voted for a Republican, those predicted there only comprise about 26,000. The black and Democrat advantage will continue to grow by the general election runoff on May 20.

Sadow compares voter registration figures historically against this year with current data on returnees. As he outlined to this newspaper,

"In an ordinary year, about the beginning of January a small surge in registrations typically would occur, even with an overall population decline. This is because of the run up to municipal elections. However, this effect can be discounted because municipal elections were pushed back almost three months so the effect would be delayed about as much as well.

As a result, this change in the rate of change can reveal the likely composition of those trickling back into New Orleans, by taking the difference of the "normal" pre-Katrina rate and the observed post-Katrina rate for the change rates for black Democrats (82.21 percent of all blacks before the hurricane, 52.23 percent of the active electorate) and the weighted average of the difference for white Democrats (45.34 percent of all whites before the hurricane, 13.55 percent of the electorate) and for white Republicans (31.50 percent of all whites before the hurricane, 9.49 percent of the electorate).

These parameters can translate total registration changes relative to each category into population, by first finding the pre-hurricane population's relationship to registration, then using post-hurricane registration figures to extrapolate population by race. Using the data, Sadow mathematically reasons that 57.3 percent of returnees/immigrants are black, 36 percent are white, and 6.7 percent other race.

His report concludes, "This shows that non-blacks disproportionately comprise the post-Katrina returnees to Orleans, since 73 percent of evacuees were black. Thus, when projecting numbers for registrants who are present in the parish, even if immediately after Katrina they were disproportionately non-black compared to pre-Katrina levels, blacks are returning at a higher rate than whites meaning the relative non-black advantage immediately after the disaster will continue to erode. Converting these calculations into projections shows that by the time the rescheduled elections occur, blacks just will have regained the registration advantage over non-blacks in Orleans."

## Competition among civil rights museums make fund raising tight

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREENSBORO — Years in the planning and still millions of dollars from opening, the International Civil Rights Center and Museum finds itself in a tough fight for funding dollars against several other high-profile museums focusing on the African-American experience.

"I don't want to think of ourselves as a niche," museum director Amelia Parker said. "I want us to think of Greensboro, and about how in the bosom of this country, we had a heartbeat that allowed us to push a movement through the South."

Planned since 1994 for the site of the Woolworth's lunch counter where four North Carolina A&T State University students launched the nationwide sit-in movement on Feb. 1, 1960, museum officials last year saw their construction budget balloon from \$10 million to \$16 million. The budget rise was due to repairs to a leaky basement and the need to meet standards for affiliation with the Smithsonian Institution.

In January two local foundations hired a full-time consultant on fundraising. Next month, Parker and other museum leaders are expected to launch a renewed campaign for donations and provide an update on how much more money is needed to finish the facility.

Parker said she hopes the new campaign will raise the national profile of the planned museum.

"It's a significant challenge, but our effort is unique in

several ways," Parker argued. "What happened in Greensboro was such a catalyst. That has a cache to it that lends to the uniqueness of what we're doing."

The refusal by a quartet of black students — Ezell Blair Jr., now known as Jibreel Khazan, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil, and the late David Richmond — to leave the segregated Woolworth's lunch counter helped jumpstart the civil rights effort nationally at a time when the movement had become bogged down in disputes over tactics.

More than 45 years later, museum leaders are in a fight for fundraising dollars.

In Fredericksburg, Va., leaders of a proposed U.S. National Slavery Museum, including former Virginia Gov. Douglas Wilder and celebrity donor Bill Cosby, are trying to raise \$200 million.

In Washington, D.C., a \$500 million National Museum of African American History and Culture is planned as part of the Smithsonian Institution and slated for a 2012 opening with exhibits on civil rights issues and modern-day issues in black culture.

And across the South, directors of existing museums are trying to drum up money to better tell their part of the black experience.

The Birmingham (Ala.) Civil Rights Institute, which opened in November 1992, features exhibits on segregation, voting rights and civil rights marches and raised more than \$3 million in 2004

in Memphis, Tenn., the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel, where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, opened in 1991 and has since been expanded at a cost of \$11 million.

And in Atlanta, the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change features photographs and other exhibits, including the funeral wagon that carried King's body. According to tax records, the center received \$2.2 million from private and government sources in 2003.

"The fundraising environment is consistently more competitive," said Ed Able, chief executive officer of the American Association of Museums in Washington. "The situation of any new museum today is a challenge, regardless of what kind of museum it is."

Lawrence Pijaux, president of the Birmingham civil rights museum and the Association of African American Museums, said actually getting the Greensboro museum open after years of planning could spur local excitement about the project and bring in more donations.

"When you talk about the civil rights movement and slavery, those are tough topics for people to discuss," he said. "Once individuals understand that these institutions are being created to improve race relations... I think people feel much better about the positive aspects of it."

consistent with NCAA rules, said Jennifer Kearns, associate director of public and media relations for the organization.

The Bears lost to St. Cloud State 78-71 Wednesday for a berth in the national semifinals.

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said. "I thought the plane might set the tone."

The Bears are four-time champions of the Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association. But before Monday, the team's only public recognition for its accomplishments this year was a sign on the window of the McDonald's near campus.

The trip marks the second time Gary has used his plane to fly the Bears to a competition and the third time the plane has been used by a school team.

As long as the Gary-sponsored flights don't include any vacation-like stopovers, they are



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