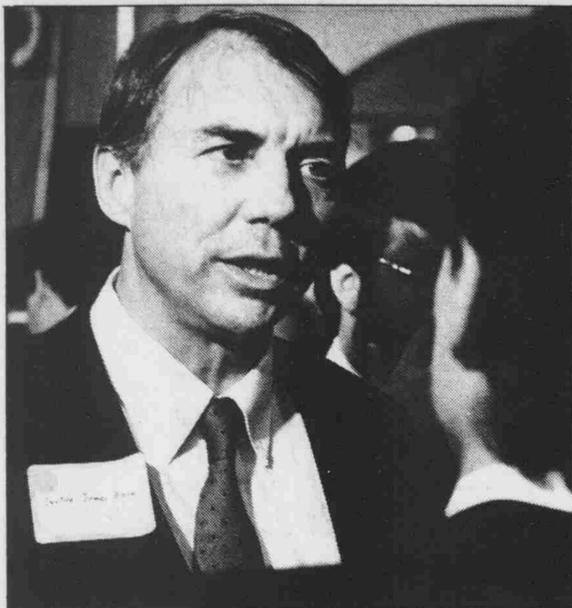


# Election '86

## County voters approve bond issue



DTH/Grant Parsons

Supreme Court chief justice candidate James Exum

### Judge

from page 1

vote. Jack Cozort won with 53 percent, and K. Edward Greene won with 54 percent, beating Republican incumbent Robert Orr.

Branch's announcement in June that he would retire from the chief justice seat set off a chain reaction that led to a spirited and competitive campaign for the North Carolina judiciary, long a virtual Democratic monopoly.

Exum, the senior associate justice on the court, was expected to be appointed to the seat, following tradition. Martin said the longstanding tradition of appointing the senior associate justice was meant to keep the the control in the Democrats' hands. When Martin appointed Billings, Exum stepped down from the court to run against her.

A poll published Nov. 2 gave Exum the lead over Billings. The poll, published by The News and Observer of Raleigh and The Winston-Salem Journal, gave Exum 43.3 percent and Billings 28.7 percent, with 27.9 percent undecided.

Both candidates have had long law careers. Billings graduated from Wake Forest School of Law in 1966,

and worked as a district judge from 1968 to 1972. She taught at Wake Forest and worked in the Billings and Burns firm with her husband before being appointed to the court by Martin on Sept. 4, 1985.

Exum was a Morehead Scholar at UNC at Chapel Hill. After graduating in 1951, he attended law school at New York University. He was on the Guilford County Superior Court bench from 1967 to 1975, and from 1975 to 1986 he was an associate justice with the supreme court. He has also been a visiting professor with the UNC School of Law.

Martin made the judicial races one of his priorities for the fall campaign, speaking on behalf of Billings and the two appointees who replaced Exum and Billings.

Because the Code of Judicial Conduct decrees that candidates for judgeships can discuss little but their records and qualifications while campaigning, CCC ran an independent campaign portraying the Democratic nominees, especially Exum, as liberals.

#### From staff reports

In a strong show of support, Chapel Hill citizens voted in an \$11.8 million bond referendum for town improvements Tuesday.

The referendum contained five separate allocations: \$4.0 million for a new public library facility, \$2.5 million for the widening of NC 15-501 and other road improvements, \$2.5 million for parks and recreation space, \$2.0 million for an addition to the existing town meeting room, and \$0.8 million for a new fire station and training facility in the southern section of town.

The vote spread on the town meeting room was the narrowest, with the greatest margin of 137 yes votes occurring in the Eastside precinct.

"The town meeting room issue is the one people know the least about," said Charles Foskey, chairman of the Chapel Hill Citizens for the Nov. 4 Bond. "They can envision what a new fire station would mean to the town, or what the widening of N.C. 15-501 would look like, but they have no way of knowing how crowded the town meeting room really is."

Town Council and Chapel Hill Bond Task Force member Julie Andresen said she felt that the voting

went well.

"I think the outcome of the bond referenda was very good for two reasons: the town was able to get much information out about the bond through the task force and these needs have been around for a long time," Andresen said.

According to the council, the burden for Chapel Hill taxpayers will be an 11.8 percent increase in taxes over the next three or four years beginning no sooner than 1987-88. The bond will be repaid over a 20-year period.

In county elections, incumbent Orange County Sheriff Lindy Pendergrass won the Orange County Sheriff's race by a landslide vote of 20,330 to 4,533, with 100 percent of the vote in.

The challenger, John Gainey, was the only Republican candidate in all of the county and district races.

"He felt he was qualified and could compete," said Josephine Barbour, chairman of the Orange County Republicans. "It's rather difficult to run in a county where you're outnumbered four-to-one in voters."

There are 35,400 registered Democrats in the county and only 9,000 Republicans, Barbour said.

The only other contested race was for two supervisors to the county

Soil and Water Conservation Board.

Three candidates, W. Chris Hogan, Lee Simpson, and Charles W. Snipes, were on the ballot. Incumbents Hogan and Snipes emerged victorious, with 12,007 and 10,771 votes, respectively.

Snipes, current chairman of the board, has served one term.

"I think my re-election is based on the grounds of the things that I've done in the district in the past four years," he said.

Incumbent Patricia Stanford Hunt ran uncontested in the race for district court judge.

Hunt has held the third district judge position since it was created

five years ago.

Stephen H. Halkiotis, John Hartwell and incumbent Shirley Marshall ran uncontested for three county commissioner seats.

Betty June Hayes, who won her race uncontested, has been the county's register of deeds since 1954.

Incumbent District Attorney Carl R. Fox won uncontested, as did Clerk of Superior Court Shirley L. James.

F. Gordon Battle also ran alone for his position of superior court judge.

Battle has held his position since 1977.

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