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Voting

support black candidates. What you saw, instead, were sharp splits within the black community leadership which sent mixed signals to its constituents.

For example, while most black ministers claimed they supported Vernon Robinson for state senate, some, like one well-known minister, kept pushing for Democrat incumbents, Marvin Ward and Ted Kaplan because he said, "we owe them." What was "owed" these two legislators is still a matter of

speculation. But they definitely benefitted from the straight party voting in the four pre-dominantly black wards. With Robinson winning in the County precincts, the staggering vote for Ward and Kaplan in the black wards proved the deciding edge, particularly for Kaplan who was recently tapped as senate majority leader.

In the commissioner's race, newcomer (and former Republican) Gerald Long benefitted from the support of several black politicians and leaders who circulated a number of confusing ballots that pushed Long and Ziglar along with Woodruff. Long beat Woodruff in the city by almost 2,000

votes but swamped her in the County precincts by over 6,000 votes. More single shooting for Woodruff in the black precincts would have given her a better chance of knocking off Forest Conrad, the third highest vote-getter in the Commissioners' race.

Mrs. Jones both benefitted and suffered from her support from Democrat Party leaders like chairman Mike Wells. Wells told a group of Democratic candidates, just before election day,

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