

# The Franklin Times

Published Every Tuesday & Thursday

Serving All Of Franklin County

Tel. GY6-3283

Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, October 22, 1968

(Ten Pages Today)

99th Year-Number 71

## SAMPLE BALLOT ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

### INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER

- To vote FOR an amendment, make a cross  mark in the square to the left of the word FOR.
- To vote AGAINST an amendment, make a cross  mark in the square to the left of the word AGAINST.
- If you tear or deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it and get another.

- FOR Constitutional Amendment establishing procedure for fixing compensation of members and officers of the General Assembly, and denying benefit of any increase in compensation to members of Session which enacts it.
- AGAINST Constitutional Amendment establishing procedure for fixing compensation of members and officers of the General Assembly, and denying benefit of any increase in compensation to members of Session which enacts it.
- FOR Constitutional Amendments continuing present system of representation in the General Assembly.
- AGAINST Constitutional Amendments continuing present system of representation in the General Assembly.

General Election November 5, 1968. State of North Carolina.

*Lee C. Smith*  
Chairman, State Board of Elections

### First In Series Of Five Sample Ballots

## Elections Board Offers Nov. 5 Suggestions

With the General Election just two weeks away, the State Board of Elections has issued a public information bulletin through news media designed to aid voters in avoiding long waiting lines and confusion at the polls.

The entire contents of the release by Alex Brock, Executive Secretary to the Board, dated Monday, October 21, follows:

As election day approaches, this office, along with all 100 County Boards of Elections, considers it appropriate to remind all voters in North Carolina that on November 5th they will have an opportunity to exercise their most important freedom in a democratic society. Free elections can exist only if the people participate in their election process. We urge all citizens to involve themselves on November 5th.

We also solicit the cooperation of all voters in making election day a successful and efficient process.

The County Boards of Elections and the officials in all 2,198 precincts have spared no effort in preparing for this election day.

In the final preparation we must receive the determined cooperation of all voters in order to avoid long lines,

confusion or delay. The following steps can be of immeasurable assistance and will help to insure that our citizens will be able to vote without undue delay. The public is urged to follow these basic suggestions:

- Decide before going to the polls the candidates for whom you wish to vote.
  - Cut the sample ballot out of your newspaper, study and mark it for your own guidance. This will speed up the voting process.
  - Plan your day on November 5th to give first priority to voting. Make preparations similar to planning a trip. GO TO THE POLLS EARLY. Most employers will excuse personnel long enough to vote if arrangements are made in advance.
  - Refer to the sample ballot you have marked when you are in the privacy of the voting booth or machine.
  - By all means request assistance if needed from the officials in your precinct. Be sure you understand how to operate the voting machine.
- Voting day must be a 50/50 effort on the part of the electorate and election officials.

### Restrictions Lifted At Franklinton

## Weekend Rains Ease Water Shortage

Welcomed rain fell in the Franklin County area last Friday and continued through Saturday night to bring to an end to one of the worse droughts in years. At Franklinton, Charlie Hight, Water Commissioners announced Monday, that all restrictions on the use of water there have been lifted. In Louisburg the Tar River was once again nearing normal after reaching 6.25 feet Sunday morning. The River had been down to a trickle for the past several weeks with the highest measurement in

recent weeks being 1.30 feet. The rain, credited in part to Hurricane Gladys which moved along the outer banks, measured 3.15 inches, according to G. O. Kennedy, Louisburg weather observer. This measurement was the greatest since the first 16 days of August when the rainfall measured a combined 3.37 inches. Since August 16, the rainfall at the Louisburg measuring station was only .20 inches until the weekend rains came. There are still some homes with

# Accountant's Assistant Testifies As Murray Trial Enters Second Week

The State continued presenting witnesses in the trial of former County Accountant E. Lee Murray here this morning as the trial entered its second week. Mrs. Kay Hunt, an assistant to the accountant from July 1963 until Murray's resignation in December, 1966, was facing cross examination by defense attorneys shortly before noon today.

Mrs. Hunt testified that except for a period from May, 1966 until the "middle of November 1966" she worked in the accountant's office and explained that she did "mostly typing of letters, checks and reports". She said that she did assist with deposits and had, at times, signed Murray's name to receipts, checks and other papers when he was not in the office. She said she always initialed such signatures, but on cross examination she said she "usually" did when confronted with a receipt signed for Murray by her but not bearing her initials.

Mrs. Hunt followed Harold Talton, bank executive who had been called to the stand every day since last Thursday. Talton was asked to identify more of the sixty-some State exhibits this morning and questioned about certain records which he had had microfilmed and copies of which were being entered as evidence.

Monday afternoon, Talton, at one point, testified that "looking at the check does not indicate that money was passed to the customer". He also confirmed that some checks had been accepted by the bank which were missing one of the three required

signatures. He said county checks requires the signature of the Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, the Register of Deeds, who was then ex-officio secretary to the Board and a counter signature by Murray.

At the close of court on Monday, Solicitor W. G. Ransdell asked that records subpoenaed from the bank be kept in court to avoid "further possible delay". The records were in court this morning as Talton again took the stand. Monday afternoon a number of bank employees were called to testify, among them were Hal Perry, Eugene Pearce, Mrs. J. C. Nowell, Mrs. Frances Davis, Mrs. Judy Leonard and Mrs. Nickie Farmer.

Testimony centered around the various teller's numbers and transac-

tions on days in question in the trial. Cross examination of the tellers revealed that bank records had not been checked by them for deposits of amounts of the checks in question on dates after the transactions involving deposits of county funds. According to reports, all tellers said they had no recollection of the particular transactions dating back as far as September, 1962.

In testimony this morning Mrs. Hunt, who is now assistant to County Accountant Kenneth Braswell, who replaced Murray when the latter became Treasurer of Wake County, told of procedures in obtaining money orders from First Citizens Bank and Trust Co. for payment to the N. C. Public Employees Social Security

Agency. She said checks were written for employee withholding each month, held in the office and at the end of a quarter, they were used to purchase the money order. She said she and Mr. Murray both had purchased the money orders during the period in question. She also testified that she prepared the employee's sheet at times, and from information written by Murray, she typed the "contribution" form for social security.

Murray is charged with six counts of embezzling county funds over a period from September 30, 1962 to September 30, 1966. He has paid to the county the amount of \$6,360.48 which was described as "unexplained

See MURRAY Page 6

## LOUISBURG RESCUE SERVICE



Louisburg Rescue Service

Members of the Louisburg Rescue Service pose above for their annual picture. Pictured left to right are: Wyatt Freeman, Charlie Lambert, Kyle Prince, Bryant Best, Asher Johnson, David Minnich, Chief Willard Morton, Ned Lloyd, Jimmy Hill and Tommy Collie. Not present when the picture was made were Joe Shearon and Dean Holton.

Staff photo by Clint Fuller.

## Saturday Last Day To Register

Saturday, October 26, is the final day for registering to vote in the November 5 elections and only a small number of new registrations have been noted thus far, according to George Champion, secretary to the Board of Elections.

Champion reported that last week very few new registrations were recorded. He said last Saturday "about 25" registered in the Louisburg precinct, but did not have any report on any of the other ten precincts in the county. He said several people changed their registration and that the changers were about equally divided with some Democrats and some Republicans switching parties.

Saturday, November 2, is Challenge Day. Qualified persons may register at the homes of the registrars on weekdays, according to past practices.

## Past Voting Records Unlikely Guide For '68

By Clint Fuller  
Times Managing Editor

Time was when supporters of a particular political candidate could check the history of past elections and get a pretty good idea of how his men would fare. It is unlikely, however, that this is true in this political year.

Which presidential candidate will Franklin voters favor this year?

Little can be gained by searching the results of past elections. The wager here is that George Wallace will carry the county. However, old party ties and long-standing habit cannot be completely discounted. In 1964, for example, many county politicians expressed the belief that Senator Barry Goldwater would win Franklin. There was much dissatisfaction with the Johnson administration that year. Of course, this did not happen. Lyndon Johnson polled 4,554 votes to Goldwater's 2,097.

Was this a turn from past voting patterns?

The answer is yes. In 1960, Franklin voters gave Democrat John F. Kennedy 5,081 to GOP Richard Nixon's 1,108. However, this too was a trend towards more Republicanism in Franklin. In 1956 Adlai Stevenson had carried the county over Dwight Eisenhower, 5,298 to 792. In 1952, the margin was a few votes less for the GOP.

How long has the trend towards more Republican strength been going on in Franklin?

Going back to 1944, when Franklin Roosevelt won over Thomas Dewey 3,967 to a mere 289 and to 1948 when Harry Truman downed Dewey 4,538 to 234, Republican strength has grown.

In 1948, Franklin gave 177 votes to third party candidate Strom Thurmond and 8 votes to Henry Wallace. This is the extent of Franklin participation in extra party candidacy until this year.

Has the trend been the same in races for Governor?

Not exactly. Democrats held an overwhelming margin up to 1964. While there was some increase in support for Republican gubernatorial candidates, the margin in 1964 was nearly 5 to 1 in favor of the Democratic candidate.

In 1944, R. Gregg Cherry downed his Republican opponent in Franklin, 3,789 to 180 and in 1948, W. Kerr Scott floored GOP hopeful George M. Pritchard, 4,659 to 144. Democrats continued to dominate Franklin voter preference in 1952 when William B. Umstead defeated H. F. Seawell, Jr., 5,606 to 267 and in 1956; Luther H. Hodges carried Franklin in his sweep over Kyle Hayes, 5,621 to 346.

It was in 1960 as Terry Sanford was opposed by Robert Gavin that the trend away from total Democratic dominance began in the county. San-

ford won, of course, and carried Franklin, 5,061 to 1,039. However, the GOP vote was more than twice that of past years and since the Democratic total was only slightly less, the belief is that new voters were causing the swing.

Sanford was not as popular in Franklin as other Democratic candidates and this had some bearing on the change. In 1964, Dan Moore won Franklin's favor 5,000 to 1,517 over Gavin and the swing away from the Democratic fold grew larger.

What about 1968? It's difficult to tell. It seems unlikely that the steady trend that has grown from around 200 votes in 1944 to only 1500 in 1964 will take a giant jump, however, it is entirely possible. One thing is probably certain. The trend will continue and is likely to show a sizable increase in Republican voting in both the presidential and the gubernatorial races.

And one large undecided factor is a host of young people who will be going to the voting booth for the first time. Apparently a two-party system is being formed. Whether this is the year it comes alive, is yet to be determined. A twenty-four year pattern has been set and it is likely that this will be evident in the November 5th outcome.

The only certainty seems to be that very little can be learned from viewing results of the past.



Rain Came In Sheets