

newsline

At-Large Ballot Stricken

MONTGOMERY Ala. -- A federal judge has ordered Montgomery County to throw out its "at-large" system of electing county commissions because the method dilutes the voting power of blacks.

Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr. ruled that the county should elect its commissioners by districts, after finding the current procedure unconstitutional and racially-motivated.

The case, Hendrix vs. Joseph, was filed by the Southern Poverty Law Center on behalf of T.J. Hendrix, a black man who made repeated attempts to get the county to pave a dirt road on which he and several other black families lived.

Montgomery County changed to the current procedure in 1957, 11 days after the U.S. Congress approved a voting rights bill. Since that change, no black has ever run for the county commission.

SPLC attorneys predict that whatever districting plan is developed by the county, there will be at least two "black" districts, giving blacks representation equal to their 40 percent of the population.

Black Judge Nominated

WASHINGTON - President Carter has nominated David S. Nelson of Roxbury, Mass. to be U.S. District Judge for Massachusetts, making Nelson the first black named under the Omnibus Judgeship Act of 1978.

Nelson, 46, is one of the first appointees under the act, which created 35 new judgeships in Courts of Appeals and 117 in District Courts. He is currently an associate justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts.

The President said, in making the announcement of Nelson's appointment, that the act would allow him to make more appointments of blacks and women if the Senate cooperates by using merit selection through independent commissions.

Nominations of judgeships are traditionally based on the recommendations of the senators from the state which the judge would serve.

N.C.S.U. Sets Record

RALEIGH - More than 1,000 black students, a record high, are studying sciences, technologies, humanities and arts at North Carolina State University this year.

University officials said 1,601 black men and women, representing every geographic section of this state and many other states, are enrolled.

Dr. Larry W. Gracie, Student Affairs research coordinator, noted the 1978 enrollment is an 18.5 percent jump over a year ago, when 895 blacks were enrolled.

The number of black students rose in five of the eight academic schools at NCSU in 1978, over a year ago.

Black enrollment increased in the School of Engineering from 197 in 1977 to 231 in 1978, in the School of Humanities and Social Studies from 227 to 287, and in the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences from 76 to 102.

Other increases came in Forest Resources, 12 to 17, and Physical and Mathematical Sciences, 55 to 75.

NCSU officials pointed out that the jump in the number of new black freshmen was especially marked. Some 232 new freshmen enrolled this year, a jump of 45 percent over the 160 new freshmen a year ago.

IT'S THE MOST



Many people think of the U.S. as a country of giant corporations employing thousands of workers and grossing millions, if not billions, in sales. They're wrong. According to the Federal government, 96.7 percent of all U.S. businesses are small businesses.

WINSTON-SALEM CHRONICLE

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State Offers Internships

RALEIGH - If you are looking for a summer job, you may just be eligible for one of about 125 state government internships available next summer.

"Thousands of students have learned more about state government through the internship program," said Frank Eagles of Wilson, chairman of the N.C. Internship Council which approves projects and screens and selects students for the summer internship program. The program is sponsored by the Department of Administration's Youth Involvement Office.

This year, the program will place about 125 students in 13 different state agencies for 10 weeks, from June 4 to August 10. To be eligible, a student must be either a North Carolina resident who has completed two years of study in a college or university or one year of study in a technical institute or community college, or an out-of-state student having completed the same studies in a North Carolina educational institution.

In addition to a regular 40-hour work week earning \$3.12 per hour, interns will participate in seminars to learn more about state government and how it works. Most of the internships are in Raleigh, but some are located in Greenville, Wrightsville Beach, Winston-Salem, Arden, Swan Quarter and Washington, N.C.

In order to apply, a student must submit the following: (1) an application for employment with North Carolina state government (blanks are available in college placement offices or local Employment Security Commission offices); (2) letter stating reasons for wanting to participate; (3) resume and (4) academic transcript. These materials must be submitted no later than February 28 to the Youth Involvement Office, Suite 115, 112 West Lane Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27611.

For more information, contact the Youth Involvement Office or call 919/733-5966.

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