

Knox camp counting on Gilmore

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Too Close To Call?

Since Gilmore has not only personally endorsed Knox, but aired that endorsement on a television commercial, his support may make the Edmisten-Knox race too close to call.

In fact, that's precisely what the local Knox campaign coordinators are hoping for.

"We are confident, but not overly so," says Blunk. "We hope that it will be real close, but with Knox on top."

Gilmore's support for Knox has been noticeably enthusiastic.

"Not only has Gilmore endorsed Knox but he is working actively with the campaign, has appeared on TV supporting Knox and has an active campaign schedule himself in support of Knox," Blunk says.

"Gilmore voters are ... committed to their candidate and will follow him."

A black Knox supporter who has maintained a high profile during the campaign agrees and says that's the way it ought to be.

"Once an endorsement is made for a candidate, a person should follow through

with him," says Victor Johnson, a local Knox coordinator.

"Anytime you endorse someone, you should go all the way with him," adds Johnson, who speculates that most of Gilmore's supporters will follow his lead and support Knox.

Other factors that may figure prominently in the race, especially in Winston-Salem, is whether organizations that endorsed Gilmore in the May 8 primary will endorse Knox in the runoff.

Gilmore received endorsements locally from the Black Leadership Roundtable Coalition, the *Chronicle*, gospel singer Shirley Caesar and the North Carolina Association of Educators.

The NCAE already has decided not to make an endorsement in the runoff, electing instead to leave the decision to individual members.

Meanwhile, both the Roundtable and the *Chronicle* will make their endorsements next week and Caesar has not announced if she, like Gilmore, will support

Knox. Another black organization, the Baptist Ministers

Conference and Associates, voted Tuesday not to make an endorsement in the runoff.

Can Edmisten Win?

As for Edmisten, Alderman Larry Womble, the attorney general's Forsyth County coordinator, feels the same assets that brought his candidate this far will see him through the runoff.

"We feel very confident and hope the people (the voters) will come back out again," says Womble. "Edmisten has a broad base of support in the city, county and among blacks and whites. He has transcended all boundaries, geographical and racial."

"We are hoping that the people who supported the former candidates ... will join the Edmisten team. We are asking them, and showing them, that we really need them. We are welcoming them with open arms."

Womble says endorsements without manpower and work mean nothing.

"During the primary,

Gilmore received a lot of endorsements, but they were not translated into actual workers," he says.

If Edmisten's showing in the primary continues in the runoff, Womble says, people can begin calling him the next governor.

"Of the 100 counties in North Carolina, he led in 70 and in the other 29 he was second, and third in one other," Womble says.

"That's hard to do with a field of 10 candidates. It's hard for anybody to pull off the victory he pulled off."

Edmisten's win was the result of organization and hard work, Womble says, both of which will continue.

"Since I joined the campaign, Edmisten came to Forsyth County 12 times," he says. "No other candidate has been to the black community like he has. He wants the black vote and he needs the black vote."

No Jackson

One problem both camps

will have to contend with is how to lure voters to the polls. That may especially be a problem in the black community, since presidential candidate Jesse Jackson will not be on the ballot.

Without Jackson, both camps fear, the black voter turnout may decrease substantially in the runoff.

"We're expecting the percentages to drop to 40 percent across the board," Blunk says. "It's hard to get anybody out, not only black people. But, if you see a greater drop in the black community it's because the percentage was so high on May 8."

Still, Womble says voters are more politically aware than they have been in the past and will not have to be persuaded to vote.

"This is the first time in eight years they (North Carolina voters) have had an opportunity to vote for a new governor," Womble says. "This alone should be enough to bring them to the polls."

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Profile

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seem to understand is that Walter Mondale was a part of it. If you were a part of a racist regime before, you're still a part of the stripes."

Holland says he watched blacks in high positions close their eyes and their mouths. Others who worked on the Carter campaign with him, he says, became disillusioned after the election was over because, unlike their white counterparts, they were not offered employment in big industry.

"Too many of us (blacks) have had cranial lobotomies," says Holland. "I have enough scars on my rump to know what's going on, and it's not going to change my lifestyle if people don't like what I say."

During primary preparation, Holland worked extensively with the St. Paul United Methodist Church voter registration drive and now goes about the business of encouraging black youth to become involved in politics, learning the craft of it and, in turn, serving and supporting each other.

A graduate of Northeastern School of Engineering and the Harvard Division of Antioch University in Cambridge, Mass., Holland says despite that his mother lacked the money to send him to college, it was common knowledge that he would go because he had the blessings of not only his mother, but black teachers who believed in him.

"I knew I was going to college," he says, "and that has been my approach my whole life -- that, with the help of God, I'm going to do anything I set out to do."

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to teen-agers. "We do the best job of babysitting," Gaines says. "We pick them up, feed them twice a day and put them in a supervised program. What more could you ask for?"

Winston-Salem State didn't offer this program, I'm sure some of these kids would substitute it with a more unwholesome environment."

For additional information, call 761-2110 or pick up applications at the WSSU Athletic Office in the C.E. Gaines Complex or from the Experiment In Self-Reliance Inc.

Where would these 550 people go without us? The Boys Club is overrun. If

Calendar

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vention Center. All persons who have not made arrangements to attend should contact Betty Grace Dillard at 969-6077 or Verdell Hayes at 767-2526.

•The Voluntary Action Center has the following opportunities available:

-- SCAN America Inc. needs a child care provider for several openings. Age preference is 16 or over. Openings are for Thursday from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Interested persons should call George Bryan at 748-9028

-- The Children's Center for the Physically Handicapped needs a volunteer to be a summer teacher's aide who will assist handicapped children on field trips, in educational activities and swimming classes. The work will be part-time or full-time two or more days a week from June 18-July 20. Call Judy Freeman at 725-0484.

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