

Marshall calls for an investigation

▲ Board of Elections will meet Friday to determine if precinct officials illegally campaigned during last week's primary. Henry Jones calls for a run-off.

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
Chronicle Staff Writer

Marshall, who finished second with 19 percent of the votes in the District 1 school-board primary race last week, filed a complaint with the Forsyth County Board of Elections, stating election officials in the East Ward precincts.

Marshall, who now faces a run-off with Henry Jones, said Alderman Virginia Newell and Rep. Annie Brown Kennedy used their political influence to sway votes away from him. Newell and Kennedy could not be reached for comment.

"I asked them to investigate the legality of that," said Marshall. "I don't know if it's illegal but even if it's not it was certainly unethical. I spent so much time working in those precincts, there's no reason why I should have lost over there." He lost four of the five precincts in the East Ward. He took first place in at least nine precincts.

But Board of Elections deputy supervisor Patricia Fetter said they have found nothing in the statutes that says politicians or precinct officials could not campaign for candidates, but the board will conduct a full investigation this Friday at 4 p.m.

"They certainly have the right to campaign for who they want to. There is really nothing in the statutes that says it is illegal. (Precinct officials) is another gray area. They should be able to campaign on their own time, but certainly not on election day at the polls."

Marshall said during the campaign he visited the home of a registrar and saw the leaflet

that listed the names of candidates to support. When he questioned where it came from, the registrar said she received it from the candidate forum held at the Best Choice Center from Newell.

"I don't know why they would work against me unless there is some higher agenda," he said. Marshall said his work with the NAACP and the community at-large has threatened some people.

"I have always stood up for truth. I don't deal with personalities. And I've never gone out and tried to work against anyone. Using political influence, to me, violates public trust," he added.

The board of elections supervisor said they are looking into the matter.

He also made claims that Jones, who called for a second primary on Tuesday, was being pushed by "political influences."

Jones finished third in last week's race with 2,597 votes. Taking first place was Geneva Brown with 3,251 votes. Marshall finished with 2,851 votes.

"I was encouraged by the people who have been supporting me from day one. That includes my students, colleagues and friends," said the retired school teacher, who denied the charges.

Marshall said Jones was just "being used."

"I hope people can see the big picture that they don't want me on that board. By him calling for a run-off that works against the interest of the entire community," he said. Marshall, who headed the NAACP's

efforts to exclude run-offs from the district election said Jones' actions contradicted those efforts.

The NAACP opposed run-offs because it reduced the chances of blacks being elected to at-large seats.



Henry Jones

Marshall received 19% of the votes, which made Jones eligible to call for a second primary. According to law, Marshall needed at least 20% of the vote to secure the district 1 school board seat.

"I felt the process worked. The purpose was to have two representatives from district 1. I thought the votes did that," Marshall said. "I can only think that someone is behind him, with political influence, pushing him," he said. "Regardless of who had won, we all agreed that we would support each other," he added.

But Jones said other factors that led him to call for a second primary were the need for more discipline in the schools and pushing for a better curriculum in the school system.

"I have emphasized that one of the main vehicles that was taken away from teachers was discipline," he said. While not wanting to reinstate corporal

punishment, he added, Jones said he didn't have a plan as to how that would come about.

He also said: "By the year 2000, they have already said that students will need at least two years of college to gain employment. We need to think about



Walter Marshall

better preparing our students for this," he added.

The bill to create this district was ratified by N.C. legislature in 1991. School board attorney, Douglas S. Pungler, said the deletion of the clause that prohibiting second primary's was a surprise to him also.

"To my best recollection, there was never any discussion to delete that portion of the bill," said school board attorney, Douglas Pungler.

The bill included a clause stating "there shall be no second primary election" which was deleted.

Responding to the call for a run-off, Geneva Brown, who received 3,251 votes said: "I'm not backing anybody. I can work with either one." Whoever wins the second primary, Brown added, will bring an African-American agenda to the school board.

The secondary primary date is Tuesday, June 2.

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Welfare department plans food drive

Chronicle Staff Report

The Social Services Department is holding its quarterly food drive on June 9 and are calling for residents who do not already receive public assistance to fill out applications that will make them eligible to receive commodities.

Katherine G. Knecht, assistant director at the department said households who want to apply can do so on May 18-20 at the Russell Avenue office, during office hours.

"If you receive food stamps you will automatically receive a card in the mail for commodities, but if you don't you need to come in this week and fill out and application," Knecht said.

"In March we provided commodities for 3,400 and this time we are planning for 4,000," she added.

Distribution will be held at the Home Environment Building at the Fairgrounds and will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Items to be distributed will

include: butter, applesauce, cheese, tomatoes, flour, pork, peanut butter, and pears.

The Crisis Control Ministry and the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Service Corps are providing volunteers to work with the Surplus Commodity Distribution that day.

Monthly income guidelines for eligibility are as follows: one person, \$718; two people, \$962; three people, \$1,207; four people, \$1,452; five people, \$1,697; eight people, \$2,431.

Burke, Malloy back request for citizens police review board

▲ Grassroot citizen says the community has formed a distrust for the police, following the Rodney King verdict. Malloy says police department has been look upon as a "sacred cow."

By SAMANTHA MCKENZIE
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Rasheed Bey, president and founder of Awakening Giants, told the public safety committee that the community has formed a "deep-seated mistrust about the overall justice system" following the Rodney King verdict and called for citizen's police review board.

"This is not anything against the police department," said Bey. "I think it will be an advantage to have this so this mistrust does not perpetuate." Bey was invited by Alderman Vivian Burke to come before the committee.

"This will help bridge the gap and help address some of the mis-conceived ideas people have with the police department," Bey added. He said his idea of a review board would include citizens in all phases of the police departmental procedures, including hiring and firing.

A similar board was proposed last year when a Winston-Salem State University student was shot several times by police. The request was voted down, but the city's Human Relations Commission was directed to design a brochure on citizen complaint procedures.

Citizens are now required to file complaints against the police

department's internal affairs division; an investigation is then conducted and the police chief makes a recommendation.

According to assistant city manager, Alexander Beaty, citizen's can appeal to the city manager's office and the public safety committee if they are not satisfied with the outcome.

Malloy, who is in favor of a review board said, "the police department has been looked upon as a sacred cow. We're not trying to paint the department in a negative way. But it is hard to police your own self."

Malloy said the review board should include citizens from a cross-section of the entire community: churches, professional organizations, grassroots people and a police department representative.

Burke, chair of the public safety committee, said she has always been in favor of a review board. "It's not anything against the police department when citizens ask for a police review board, as if we are trying to be critical," she said. Burke said she would support the request, scheduled to be on next month's agenda.

Malloy also encouraged citizens to attend the next public safety meeting. "If citizens really come

out in masses and demonstrate that they want something done, then the chances are greatly enhanced," he said.

Beaty said he thought the current process provided citizens a sufficient venue to voice their complaints. "We already have four people, elected by the citizens, who are responsible for handling complaints," he said referring to the committee's four aldermen, including Aldermen Robert Northington and Nancy Pleasants, both of whom voted against a review board in the past.

"It is my belief that we have the ultimate in review boards. We have a civilian police review board, the civilians just happen to be elected officials," he said.

But Malloy argued that elected officials are not a substitute for a review board made up of citizens.

Interested in attending?

The next Public Safety Committee meeting will be held Monday, June 8, at 5:30 p.m., City Hall Committee Room, 260

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