

Lee calls for runoff with Marshall



Valeria L. Lee

▲Runoff election to be held Tuesday, June 4

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Valeria Lynch Lee of Winston-Salem has requested a runoff in her race to become North Carolina's Secretary of State.

Lee finished second in the May 7 primary with 21 percent of the vote behind Elaine Marshall, who had 27 percent of the ballots.

The runoff will be held on Tuesday

June 4. The winner faces Republican Richard Petty of Randleman, a former NASCAR driver.

None of the six candidates in the race received the required 40 percent of the ballots. Therefore, state election laws allow the candidate winning the second-highest number of votes to request a runoff.

"I have a responsibility to the people of North Carolina to let them make the choice who they want as their Democratic candi-

date in November," Lee said in a news release. "The person (Marshall) who received the highest number of votes only got 26 or 27 percent of the vote — only one in four. That means for every four people voting, three of them voted for someone else for Secretary of State."

Lee said the runoff would strengthen the election process for voters.

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Elaine Marshall

Winston-Salem Chronicle

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Harvey Gantt, left, defeated Charlie Sanders in the Democratic primary and will challenge U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., in November. Sanders is supporting Gantt in his campaign.

Voters may reject racist tactics

▲Harvey Gantt calls for debate with Helms

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

RALEIGH — North Carolina voters may reject Helms' racist tactics in Harvey Gantt's bid to unseat U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., the former Charlotte mayor said last week.

"Race is going to be an issue," Gantt said, but added "North Carolina may have gone beyond that. People want to send the best person to Washington to represent them. There are issues more important than the color of my skin."

Gantt and Charlie Sanders, his Democratic challenger in the May 7 primary, appeared at a news conference at the N.C. Democratic Party Headquarters in Raleigh.

About 30 Gantt supporters, both blacks and whites, attended the news

event and cheered for Gantt as he and Sanders entered the room.

Gantt won 53 percent of the vote in last week's primary, defeating Sanders, the former chief executive officer and president of Glaxo Inc. Gantt's victory sets up a rematch with Helms, who beat Gantt by 6 percentage points in 1990 in a racially tinged election.

Gantt has issued a debate challenge to Helms, who is expected to wage a tough and expensive battle for reelection.

"It would be a mistake for Helms not to debate," he said. "He should face the voters and discuss the issues that are important to the people of this state. He shouldn't just stay there in Washington."

Eddie Woodhouse, a campaign

spokesman for Helms, said the senator believes it is too soon after the primary to discuss the possibility of debating Gantt.

"We will take a look at it, maybe sometime in the summer," Woodhouse said. "Sen. Helms feels like people need a rest from campaigning. People have told him that they are tired of campaigns."

Helms told the Associated Press, "our respective races will, no doubt, be spirited, but I hope that both will be positive as well. I shall endeavor to conduct myself as a gentleman, and I know Mr. Gantt will do the same."

Helms acknowledges that he is a conservative senator, and Gantt is a

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Parents choose schools for pupils

▲Students to learn of assignments in final report

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Officials with the city-county school system searched for the parents of 59 students who live in the Kimberly Park neighborhood last week, so the parents could choose the elementary school their children will attend in the 1996-97 school year.

The parents could choose to send their children to Kimberly Park, Jefferson, Speas, Vienna, or Sherwood Forest Elementary Schools, which are in Zone 5 of the redistricting plan. Each school will offer a different academic theme to attract black and white students who live in Zone 5.

Jefferson will offer a math and science theme, Kimberly Park will offer year-round math and science, Sherwood Forest will offer science and visual arts, Speas will feature "21st century academics," and Vienna will offer communications.

The deadline for students to register for one of the schools was Friday May 10. Application packets had been mailed to the parents of nearly 2,500 students several weeks prior to the deadline.

If students didn't return registration cards by

then, school officials would assign their children to one of the five elementary schools, according to available space and to achieve racial balance, according to Dr. Donald L. Martin Jr., superintendent of the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.

"A critical piece to any school choice plan is informing the parents," Martin said in a news conference at the Kimberly Park Community Center.

School social workers and Associate Superintendent Joseph Johnson visited homes in Kimberly Park Terrace and the surrounding neighborhood near Kimberly Park Alternative School, which will become an elementary school next school year.

Vernon Robinson, the Republican nominee for Superintendent of Public Instruction, volunteered to join school personnel on the door-to-door effort. He said he supported the school choice plan.

The students will be informed what school they will be attending in their final report cards in June.

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Dr. Donald L. Martin Jr., seated second right, explains that parents need to decide what school their children will attend in the 1996-97 school year.

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This Week in Black History

May 19, 1925

Malcolm X

born in

Omaha, Nebraska



WHERE TO FIND IT

Robinson first black nominee for Superintendent

By JOHN HINTON
Chronicle Senior Staff Writer

Vernon Robinson of Winston-Salem has become the first African-American nominee for State Superintendent of Public Instruction in North Carolina and the first black candidate to defeat a white opponent in a contested Republican primary statewide.

Robinson won 52 percent of the vote while his opponent, Bill Sharpe of Wilson, a retired educator, received 48 percent of the ballots.

"I had some name recognition and a better field organization," Robinson said, adding that 54,000 pieces of his campaign literature

were mailed to households of likely primary voters.

Robinson, 40, a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, is president of the North Carolina Education Reform Foundation. He faces Democrat Mike Ward of Creedmoor, a former Granville County School Superintendent, in the Nov. 5 general election. In 1992, Robinson lost the Republican primary for the State Superintendent post by 2,007 votes.

Both candidates expect their race to receive public attention in the fall because there are many contested seats in the Council of State, and people are paying more interest

to educational issues.

Robinson said his nomination was a victory for parents and their children and for North Carolina.

"I've been accused of being a one-issue candidate, and I plead guilty," he said. "My one issue is you must change the incentives in the public school system if you want to change the system. We must take the money from the politicians and bureaucrats who don't even know your child's name and give that power to parents." The black community is facing a crisis in public education,

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Vernon Robinson

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