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Gardner Hopes To Beat Odds In District 3 Race

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer
Roosevelt Gardner hopes to beat the odds to become the first Republican to represent District 3 on Charlotte city council.



Gardner

Gardner says he feels the momentum is swinging his way and he is drawing close to opponent Ella Scarborough.

"I think it's about even right now," he said. History is not on Gardner's side, as no Republican has represented the area since the city went to district representation in 1977. For 10 years, Ron Leeper, an at large candidate this year, has been District 3's councilman.

Neither are the numbers, which favor the Democrats 3-1 to Republicans.

Aware of the task ahead, Gardner said his campaign will target traditional Democratic strongholds while holding on to Republican areas.

"We'll have to do well in Clanton Park, Precinct 77 (which includes Montclair and Nations Ford Road) and West Boulevard," Gardner said. "We're going to have to get votes there. We feel we'll do well in (precincts) 23, 53 and 39."

The Democratic domination of registered voters can be overcome, Gardner said.

Gardner believes this campaign is the realization of two-party politics which could give district voters the chance to vote on the issues instead of the party. He knows the numbers and tradition are against him, but some-

one has to take the first step.

"When you look across the country, they're 4-1 Democratic" in the number of registered voters, Gardner assessed. "We were traditional farm workers until someone stood up. The thing that upsets me the most is that the Democrats have black people voting for losers that mainstream America won't vote for."

Gardner, who saw combat duty in Vietnam with the Navy, says the prime concerns among voters are controlling the flow of drug-related crime and prostitution in the district as well as improving housing and providing an access between Wilkinson Boulevard and Billy Graham Parkway.

Gardner claims his candidacy offers a big difference to Scarborough in that he would aggress-

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Harvey Gantt



Sue Myrick

Gantt, Myrick Square Off

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer
Mayor-elect Harvey Gantt and Councilwoman Sue Myrick squared off in a heated debate on how the city should be governed while discussing an array of issues at the mayoral campaign winds down.

Neither Gantt, the incumbent Democrat, nor Myrick, the Republican challenger, would claim victory Sunday after their televised debate. The forum, sponsored by the League of Women Voters and the UNCO student government and televised by WSOC-TV, produced no clear-cut winner, although both candidates seemed to be pleased with their performance.

"Overall, I think we did very well," Gantt said after the telecast. "When you're doing (the debate) you really can't tell," Myrick said.

The candidates continued to blast the other's position on transportation and the city's role in providing housing and shelter for the homeless. Myrick said the mayor should work more closely

with state legislators in winning state funding for road projects. "I don't trust the people they send to the state legislature to think and make demands. I think I'd get a heck of a lot further," she said.

Gantt said the city has made tremendous progress during his administration and his experience could keep that momentum going.

"We can't solve our problems by believing there are some quick fix solutions," he said. "There aren't any."

Myrick said the incumbent has done little in his four years as mayor.

"I go back to name maybe three projects he's completed since he's been in office," she charged. "Contrary to what he tells us, not everyone is happy."

Gantt accused Myrick of doing an about-face on some issues, particularly the city's role in providing a shelter for the homeless and building low-income housing. Gantt favors a more active role while Myrick has said the mayor should try to marshal a

joint effort among the private sector and city.

"What I see happening is that some things don't get done," she said.

Myrick continued her attack on government waste and pushed a plan to save the city nearly \$25 million through the elimination of some bureaucratic levels and better management of city-owned equipment.

"I do know where the money comes from," she said. "It isn't a fabrication."

Gantt challenged Myrick to offer specifics to the plan while insisting that waste has been cut where it has been found. He also claimed that Myrick failed to take a leadership role in eliminating waste from the budget while both were on council.

"Myrick never demonstrated any leadership, never took any initiatives trying to move us to address those so-called problems of inefficiency," Gantt said.

The candidates traded attacks on Myrick's questioning of Gantt's partnership in WJZY-TV and his failure to disclose the

\$500,000 he made from the sale of 49 percent of the station to Capital Broadcasting of Raleigh.

"I stand by the statements I made," Myrick said. "I do have FCC (Federal Communications Commission) papers and articles to back it up. It wasn't something off the top of my head."

Gantt called her charges "irresponsible" because the complaint on which she based the accusation has not been ruled on by the FCC, which oversees the licensing of television stations.

"It is still a nonissue," Gantt explained. "I have done nothing morally, ethically or legally wrong."

Scarborough To Build On Democratic Strength

By Herb White
Post Staff Writer
Ella Scarborough is hoping District 3 voters will endorse her call for cooperation to improve the district with votes on election day.



Ella Scarborough

Scarborough, a Democrat running for the District 3 city council seat now held by Ron Leeper, is making her first run for council.

Scarborough got to the Nov. 3 general election with a victory over Paul Recard and Sam Carr in the Democratic primary. She finished with 931 votes, compared to Carr's 423 and Recard's 96 in a light turnout. Scarborough said the campaign's pace has been hectic, with "two or three" public forums to attend every day, but her candidacy is on schedule going into the general election.

"We feel good about it," she informed. "We've worked hard."

Scarborough said her campaign will stay with the formula that won the Democratic nomination, which is to control the precincts

where her support is strongest.

"We looked at some strategic areas that we targeted for the general election," she said. "I was the top vote-getter in all boxes (precincts) and we hope to do the same thing in the election."

The Scarborough campaign likens itself to have grass-roots support. See Scarborough On Page 4A

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Vinroot Fundraiser Set

On Sunday, November 1, from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., at the Hyde Park home of Mrs. Jean Webber a major fund raiser will be held for current City Councilman, Richard Vinroot.

The fund raiser will take place at 4200 Hyde Park.

Vinroot is running for reelection for a third term on the Charlotte City Council.

Says Alfred Glover, one of the event's organizers, "This fund raiser is significant because it shows that blacks are diversified with their votes and dollars."

"Vinroot has consistently been in the forefront in respect to supporting causes which enhance the black community," adds Glover.

Webber is being assisted in this fund raiser by Dr. Emery L. Rann, Mrs. Wesley Clement, Clayton Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Farrar and others.

Music for the occasion will be provided by classical pianist Karl Moore in the sitting area, while guests may also enjoy jazz in the congregational area of the Webbers' home.

The public is invited to attend at \$10 per person, payable during the event, or by mailing their contribution to Alfred Glover, 1426



Richard Vinroot

Plumstead Rd., Charlotte, NC, 28216.

Voters To Decide Bond Referendums

By Terry Parker
Post Staff Writer

On November 3 voters of Charlotte will go to the polls to vote for the mayor of Charlotte and vote on the 1987 bond referendums. Besides the Harvey Gantt-Sue Myrick mayoral election, Democratic candidate Ella Scarborough is running against Republican candidate Roosevelt Gardner for councilman of District 3.

This position is currently held by Democrat Ron Leeper, who will run at large for city councilman.

The number for voter turn out is expected to be 40% to 45%, which is much lower compared to a presidential election that usually has a 75% to 85% turn out, said Bill Culp, supervisor of the board of elections.

The voters of Mecklenburg County will be asked to vote "Yes" or "No" on eight county bond questions. All bond items are improvements needed to meet the needs of a growing community.

The total bond package for Mecklenburg County is \$71,285,000.

The bonds proposed for Mecklenburg County are for schools, solid waste facilities, park and recreation facilities, county buildings, flood control facilities, Central Piedmont Community College, WTVI (telecommunications) and library.

Of the \$71,285,000, school bonds will provide the school system with \$31,100,000 to obtain two south area elementary schools, maintenance facilities, air conditioning and contingency funds.

The solid waste facilities bonds will develop landfills to meet state and federal guidelines at the estimated cost of \$10,000,000.

The parks and recreational facilities bonds will provide 250-300 acres for a community park in the southeastern part of the county and to build the county's fourth high school swimming pool at the projected cost of \$8 million.

Mental Health Center remodeling, Hal Marshall Services Center renovation and land acquisition are part of the county buildings bonds. The total cost is \$7,175,000.

The flood control facilities bonds estimated cost is \$5,000,000. This will fund drainage projects, and construction of deten-

tion basins. Central Piedmont Community College bonds will fund one area learning center and the vocational-trade building at the cost of \$4,000,000.

The WTVI bonds will expand and remodel the studios at WTVI. This cost is \$3,100,000.

The library bonds at a total of \$2,910,000 will go toward south regional branch-land acquisition and construction.

The bonds for Charlotte pertain to street improvements, parks and recreational facilities, and sanitary sewer bonds.

The estimated amount for street improvements is \$32,500,000. This involves widening roads, Park Road align-

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