

600,000 N. C. Voters Purged Since 1984

Over 600,000 voters were purged from the voter registration lists since 1984, according to John Edwards, executive director of the N. C. Civic Education Project.

Edwards said that local Boards of Elections purge their lists of inactive voters every five years. The purge is done following each presidential election. In 1984, there were 267,737 registrants purged out of a registration of 3,270,933 registrants. Following the 1988 General Election, 374,337 voters were taken off the registration lists out of 3,432,042 registrants.

Edwards stated that initial findings from 8 counties, reporting gender based statistical data, indicate that more females were purged than males. There were 41,162 females purged compared to 36,615 males.

Edwards further stated that

there is a need for additional voter education and civic participation. During the period between 1983 and 1984, there were 533,845 new voters added to the registration books. One year later, more than half of that number was purged from the books.

During the one year period, between 1987 and 1988, there were 339,904 new registrants, yet at the end of 1988, 374,337 were purged from the voter registration list.

Additionally, during the four year period between 1984 and 1988, 878,749 new voters were added to the books; 642,074 were purged, leaving a net increase of only 231,675 more registered voters. Edwards said that approximately 72 percent of the state's eligible voting population is registered to vote but an increasingly larger pool of registrants are not voting.

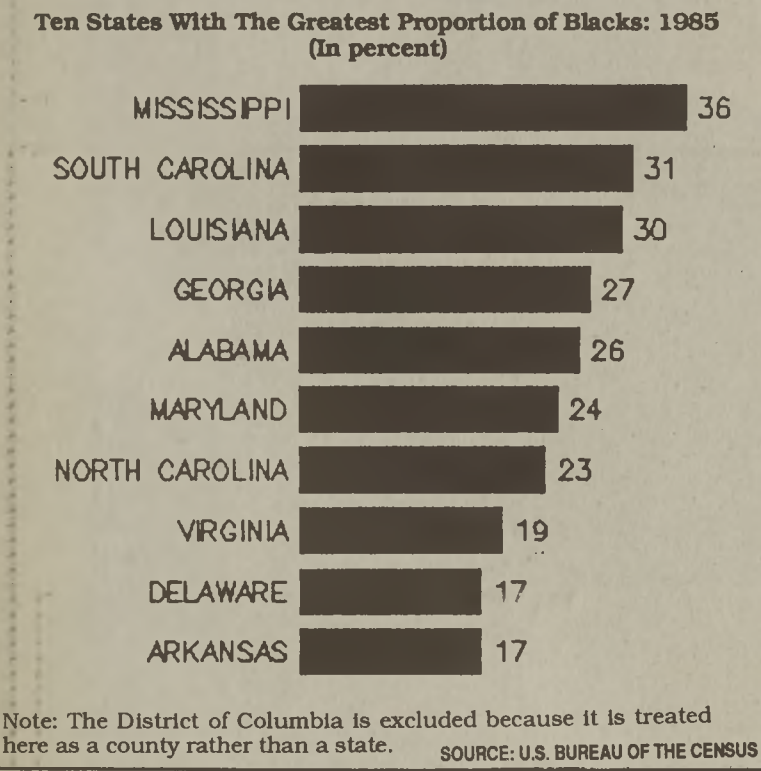
According to Edwards, the number of females purged may correlate to the underrepresentation of females appointed and elected to public offices.

Consequently, of the 51 senators in the North Carolina Senate, four are females, representing eight percent of the Senate members. There are 120 members in the House of Representatives, 20 female representatives, comprising 17 percent of the House members, and of the 2,800 municipal elected officials, 436 are females, representing approximately 16 percent of the municipal elected population. There are 523 county commissioners in the state. Sixty one are females. Females comprise 11 percent of the county commissioners elected in North Carolina. However, females are slightly more than

one-half of the state's population.

Edwards further stated that a study done by the N. C. Civic Education Project in 1986 indicated that females represented 29.1 percent of the members appointed to local boards and commissions. Data indicated that most of the females appointed to local boards and commissioners served on Library, Social Services and Historic Preservation Commission Boards.

Further, the N. C. Civic Education Project will be issuing a report on the number of voters purged by race in the near future. Edwards stated that it seems, according to their initial findings, that governmental policies and programs in N.C. are being developed and shaped by white males.



Ross Announces Bid

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Local government, Ross said, has not taken the time to fully think through the city's direction in dealing with growth. He draws a line between real expansion of services and reproduction of current facilities.

"I think there's a distinction between growth and bloat," Ross said. "Bloat is duplicating services and businesses we already have. We have to encourage growth and discourage the bloat."

While Charlotte is becoming a major force in attracting new businesses, Ross said the city is now in a position to be more selective.

"Let the Chamber (of Commerce) go out and recruit businesses, but the city should decide who comes," he said. "I's

just like a college (basketball) recruiter. If you recruit 100 players and you need a point guard and a center and you have five forwards sitting on the bench, you don't need to recruit forwards."

City government needs to concern itself with providing citizens with the best in basic services, such as water and sewer, police and fire protection, Ross said. His focus during the campaign will be to make those services so accessible that people don't have to think about them.

"We cannot remain a decent, healthy place to live if basic services are not given a high priority," he said. "That's something citizens ought to be able to take for granted."

Dog's Tag Stirs Controversy

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Another shelter employee who later learned of the tag said he told Harpster to change the tag immediately.

Animal control officer Charlie McClain said he did not know the name was listed until he questioned Harpster about why Clayton had been angry. McClain knew the dog's name because he brought it to the shelter, but said he "never thought they would put it on the tag for the public to see."

The name was removed Thursday both from the dog's tag and from animal control records.

John Crowder, county environmental health supervisor, said he would try to reach Clayton to apologize. Clayton said Saturday he had not heard from Crowder.

"That may not have been the proper way to do it," Crowder said of the tagging. "We may possibly have used a little better judgment on putting a name out for public view."

especially young black children," he said. "They may not be as vocal as I am."

Black Population Figures

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number of blacks (15.3 million) and the greatest proportion of the total population that was black (19 percent). The remaining three regions were about nine percent blacks.

* Ten metropolitan areas had a black population of more than 500,000 in 1985. New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia had black populations of more than one million.

* Metropolitan areas with black population growth of more than 100,000 in 1980-85 were New York (260,000) and Los Angeles (129,000). Gaining more than 50,000 were Miami (93,000), Washington, DC (90,000), Atlanta (82,000), Chicago (81,000), Houston (77,000), Dallas (68,000), Philadelphia (64,000) and San Francisco (53,000).

* Blacks constituted more than one-third of the population in 11 metropolitan areas, all of them in the South.

* Counties with an estimated black population of more than one million in 1985 were Cook, Ill. (1,416,000) and Los Angeles, Calif. (1,037,000). Counties with

more than 500,000 blacks were Wayne, Mich. (842,000); Kings, N.Y. (839,000); Philadelphia, Pa. (663,000); and Harris, Texas (533,000).

* The black population increased by more than 50,000 from 1980 to 1985 in the following counties: Los Angeles, Calif. (88,000); Kings, N. Y. (85,000); Cook, Ill. (64,000); Dade, Fla. (63,000); Prince George's Md. (63,000); and Harris, Texas (60,000).

* Among counties with at least 80,000 blacks, DeKalb, Ga., ranked first in black population growth, with a 30 percent increase. Counties with an increase of more than 20 percent were Broward, Fla. (27 percent); Prince George's, Md. (25 percent); and Dade, Fla. (22 percent).

* Among the 54 counties or county equivalents with a black population of at least 80,000 five had a black majority in 1985. They were the District of Columbia, 70 percent; Orleans Parish, La., 59 percent; Baltimore city, Md., 57 percent; Fulton County, Ga., 53 percent; and Richmond city, Va., 52 percent.

Ivanhoe Slave Cemetery Discovered

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ize the suffering of their ancestors.

The grassroots project is planned to culminate in September with the unveiling of a single granite marker honoring the unnamed dead. State officials speculate it will be the first time a slave cemetery has been so recognized in North Carolina.

"The fact that it is rare is just one of many reasons we are doing this," said project organizer Homer Marshall Jr., who is chairman of the Sampson County Minorities for Progressive Government based in Clinton.

"I think it's a part of our heritage that needs to be remembered. It's a place where black kids can go and see where they came from and compare it to where they are now. We have a piece of history here for both whites and blacks, and I think we should maintain it for all," he said.

Just how many slaves are buried in the one-fourth to one-half acre lot is a mystery, Marshall said. However, a crew of state archaeologists who visited the site in April found 21 sink holes resembling human graves.

The absence of grave markers implies that the deceased were too poor to afford marble or granite tombstones, officials said. Less durable wooden markers were probably used instead.

How long the cemetery was in use is also a mystery, Marshall said.

"Apparently, the fact that this was a place where slaves were buried was common knowledge

in Ivanhoe for years, but they sort of took it for granted," he said.

"Nobody ever really bothered to do anything with it or even to clean it up. I'd say if we hadn't done something, it might have disappeared forever," Marshall said.

The cemetery, which is about a quarter mile from the Ivanhoe fire station, was rediscovered last year when a description of its boundaries surfaced as part of a land sale, Marshall said.

McClain picked the dog up June 23 from a Leland woman who said she could no longer take care of it, according to shelter records and McClain's account.

When dogs are brought to the shelter, employees fill out an information sheet on them. A paper tag listing their breed and name, if known, is put on their cage. Secretary Jacque Hamilton, who filled out the tag for the dog, said she did not think about the name.

"You just write it down," she said. "I guess everything out there would offend one person or another. ... I don't get offended by names. They're just words to me."

They are not "just words" to Clayton.

"I just feel sorry for young kids that go in there to adopt a puppy,



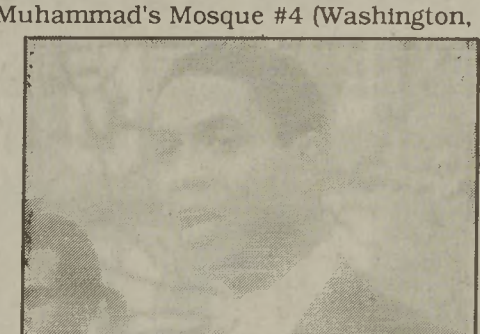
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