

Final Candidates for State, National Elections Slide Into Position

Secretary of State, Governors Races Should Heat Up Soon

BY AMY COOK
STAFF WRITER

Braving the inclement weather, a number of candidates hoping to be elected to a statewide executive office jumped into the race at the last minute as Monday's deadline to file to run for state and county elections offices passed.

Candidates who wanted their names on the ballot had until Monday at noon to file with the North Carolina Board of Elections. The list of candidates for the races include former state senators and representatives, teachers and one former NASCAR driver.

With the current Secretary of State Rufus Edmisten opting not to seek re-election, the race to replace him promises to be one of the most hotly contested executive elections.

Former NASCAR driver Richard Petty threw his hat into the political ring earlier this year. Although he seems like an unlikely candidate, the Randolph County resident does boast political experience.

Jim Trotter, co-chairman of Petty's campaign, said Petty's 16 years of experience as a Randolph County commissioner will help him in his campaign.

"North Carolina has been very good to Richard Petty," said Trotter. "He feels like the average citizen knows him and feels comfortable with him. Plus, he has the highest name recognition in North Caro-

lina." Petty is the only Republican running for secretary of state. Seven Democrats are vying for the Democratic nomination.

Brenda Pollard of Durham filed last week. Pollard, a former executive assistant to former Secretary of State Thad Eure, said she wanted to use her experience with Eure to restore the credibility of the office.

Democrat Mort Hurst of Robeson County has 20 years of political experience. Hurst is a former Lumberton councilman and has worked on various political campaigns.

Former N.C. Sen. Elaine Marshall, D-Harnett, is also seeking the Democratic nomination for secretary of state. Marshall said she wants to help senior citizens, businesses and other citizens who come into contact with the office on a daily basis.

Joyce Langston of Greensboro filed last week. Valerie Lynn Lee filed at the last minute on Monday.

The attorney general race features the incumbent Democrat Mike Easley who will face Republican Robert H. Edmunds Jr. Edmunds, a private lawyer in Guilford County, is a former U.S. District Attorney.

In another race, former N.C. Rep. David Diamond, D-Surry, announced his candidacy for state superintendent of public instruction. Diamond will face Michael Ward in the Democratic primary. Republicans Vernon Robinson and Bill Sharpe are vying for the Republican nomination.

Candidates Running for Available Seats in State and National Elections

24th District N.C. House of Representatives
■ Anne Barnes, Democrat
■ Joe Hackney, Democrat

16th District N.C. Senate
■ Teena Little, Republican
■ Fred Hobbs, Democrat
■ Eleanor Kinnaird, Democrat
■ Howard Lee, Democrat
■ P.H. Craig, Republican

4th District U.S. House of Representatives
■ Fred Heineman, Republican
■ David Price, Democrat

U.S. Senate
■ Jesse Helms, Republican
■ Charles Sanders, Democrat
■ Harvey Gantt, Democrat
■ Ralph McKinney, Democrat

N.C. Governor
■ Richard Vinroot, Republican
■ Robin Hayes, Republican
■ Art Manning, Republican
■ Ken Rogers, Republican
■ Jim Hunt, Democrat
■ Dennis Wicker, Democrat

Secretary of State
■ Richard Lee Petty, Republican
■ Joyce Langston, Democrat
■ Elaine Marshall, Democrat
■ Brenda Pollard, Democrat
■ Howard Kramer, Democrat
■ Mort Hurst, Democrat
■ Valerie Lynn Lee, Democrat

State Treasurer
■ Ann Duncan, Republican
■ Larry Linney, Republican
■ Harlan Boyles, Democrat
■ Michael Weisel, Democrat

Superintendent of Public Instruction
■ Vernon Robinson, Republican
■ Bill Sharpe, Republican
■ David H. Diamond, Democrat
■ Michael E. Ward, Democrat

Attorney General
■ Robert H. Edmunds, Jr., Republican
■ Mike Easley, Democrat

State Auditor
■ Jack Daly, Republican
■ Robert Dinudilla, Republican
■ Ralph Campbell Jr., Democrat

U.S. Senate, N.C. Senate Face Primary Competition in May

BY KARRI L. ZAREMBA
STAFF WRITER

State Board of Elections offices put the lid on election races Monday when the clock struck noon — the deadline for candidates to file. With all the political contestants in the pot and campaigns adding the seasoning, some races are coming to a boil.

Latecomer Ralph McKinney Jr. slid into the U.S. Senate race Monday morning, seeking to oust U.S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., from his 24-year reign. McKinney's filing rounded out a trio with Charles Sanders and Harvey Gantt who will compete for the Democratic bid in the May 7 primary.

Sallie Stohler, Sanders' press secretary, said Sanders was running as the best Democratic candidate to beat Helms. Although Gantt and Sanders had few ideological differences, she said, the big difference was that Gantt had run against Helms in 1990 and lost. "Whether it's Harvey Gantt or Ralph McKinney, it doesn't matter," Stohler said. "The only person to beat Helms is an outsider like Charlie."

Referring to four professional politicians who took a stab at Helms' seat but failed to secure it in previous elections, Stohler said it was time to give someone new a shot. "This race is about ousting the most draconian, conservative senator this state has ever seen," Stohler said. "This seat is so important, and this race is so critical to

North Carolina. This primary is going to be about: Who can beat Jesse Helms?"

But a member of the Jesse Helms for Senate Campaign said Helms was going to let the Democrats fight it out among themselves. Speaking for the group, Tom DeWitt said Helms was going to run his campaign like he had run the previous four. "The Senator always runs on his record and what he stands for," DeWitt said. "May the best man win."

Democrats will also have to brave the heat in the race for 16th District seats in the N.C. Senate with their own primary. Former Carboro Mayor Eleanor Kinnaird and Howard Lee, former Chapel Hill mayor and state senator, will face N.C. Sen. Fred Hobbs, D-Moore, on May 7.

Two of these Democrats will advance to the November general election where they will be joined by incumbent Teena Little, R-Moore, and political newcomer P.H. Craig, an Orange County realtor.

With U.S. Rep. Fred Heineman's seat appearing on the November ballot, the Republican incumbent will have a face-off with David Price, a Democrat, political science professor at Duke University and former occupant of the 4th Congressional District seat.

But the race for 24th District seats in the N.C. House of Representatives won't even reach lukewarm with this round of elections. Democratic incumbents Anne Barnes and Joe Hackney will run uncontested.

Gantt Behind in Contributions, Ahead in Contributors

JENNIFER WILSON
STAFF WRITER

Former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt filed with the State Board of Elections Monday, officially kicking off his campaign for the U.S. Senate seat currently held by Sen. Jesse Helms.

This event was the second milestone in his second attempt to defeat Helms. Last week, Gantt filed his financial report with the Federal Elections Commission, which indicated that his campaign had raised more than \$1 million.

Gantt will face off against Durham Democrat Charles Sanders, a cardiologist and former Glaxo executive, for the Democratic nomination, which will be decided in the primaries May 7.

Gantt filed his campaign finance report last Wednesday. His numbers indicate that he remains a strong candidate in the primary race. They also indicate that he raised only \$18,000 less than Sanders raised for his campaign.

However, Gantt had more than 21,000 contributors listed in his report. Compare this to Sanders' 2,000 contributors and to the fact that Sanders personally added a \$500,000 personal loan to his campaign.

ELECTIONS

Gantt only took out a \$20,000 personal campaign loan. In addition, Gantt's operating expenditures left him with \$584,000 on-hand, compared to Sanders' \$493,000.

Although the two candidates appear to have earned approximately the same amount of money, the number of contributors to his campaign would indicate that Gantt has garnered more public support than Sanders. However, Republican candidate Helms, a notoriously powerful fundraiser, is still in the lead with \$2.2 million raised. In the 1990 election, Helms earned 53 percent of the votes to slide past Gantt and capture his fourth term as senator.

This time around, Helms has four times the amount of money on hand than he did during his last election because he is utilizing different methods of fund-raising. Instead of asking for funds through costly mailings, Helms has been holding private functions, said Tom DeWitt, research director for the Helms for Senate Campaign.

Also, all of Helms' money will be put toward the fall elections since he will not be competing in the primaries. However, he has a long way to go to match the expenditures of previous campaigns. In 1990, Helms spent \$18 million, approximately \$10 million more than Gantt.

Gantt's contributors number more than 21,000 — most hailing from the state. The average contribution was \$42. Approximately 19,000 of the supporters contributed less than \$100, said Lisa Mortman, spokesman for the Gantt for Senate campaign. Mortman said the low average contribution showed that Gantt's support came from average North Carolinians and indicated that his grassroots support was strong.

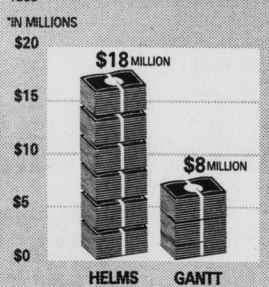
"There are people who want to support his campaign in any way they can," Mortman said. "When you look at these



Former Charlotte Mayor HARVEY GANTT has raised over \$1 million for his U.S. Senate campaign.

Who Had the Bucks in '90?

Money raised by Jesse Helms and Harvey Gantt during the 1990 senate race



figures and break them down, it shows a tremendous show of strength because Gantt cares about the average people."

Gantt's election platform will not be officially announced until next week, but Mortman said he will concentrate on representing the hard-working families of North Carolina. Mortman said, "He's running to be the senator of all of North Carolina."



IN THE NEWS

Top stories from the state, nation and world

State Campaign Costs Skyrocket, Study Says

RALEIGH — State Rep. Robin Hayes borrowed \$1 million from his mother. Michael Weisel loaned his campaign \$545,623 and Gov. Jim Hunt raised \$3.8 million last year.

The names are different, the parties are different and the offices they seek are different.

But one thing most political candidates in North Carolina have in common is the need to raise money — ever increasing amounts of it.

Democracy has become increasingly expensive in North Carolina, a state that prides itself on its citizen Legislature. Fund-raising reports for 1995 filed recently by candidates for state offices show that even before the current election year started, candidates had raised more than \$8.7 mil-

lion. That is almost twice as much as they raised during the pre-election year of 1991.

An analysis by the Institute for Southern Studies found that even when spending figures are adjusted for inflation, it costs at least five times as much to run a successful campaign for the General Assembly in 1994 as it did in 1976.

Ran Coble, the executive director of the N.C. Center for Public Policy Research, said such figures only contribute to the increasing alienation of voters and potential candidates.

"When the cost of campaigns goes up, it leaves it so that fewer people of average means can afford to run," Coble said.

Bosnian Casualty Sparks Further Political Debate

WASHINGTON, D.C. — With the first death of an American serviceman in Bosnia, several prominent Republicans are once again demanding that the administration bring a quick end to U.S. involvement there.

Republican presidential contender Sen. Phil Gramm said Sunday that his first act if he was elected president would be to pull out the American troops participating in the NATO effort to keep the fragile peace in Bosnia.

The government can provide the best arms to protect them while they are there, "but the best way to keep them safe is to bring them home," declared the Texas senator.

Sgt. 1st Class Donald A. Dugan, 38, of Belle Center, Ohio, was killed Saturday in northern Bosnia when ammunition exploded in his hands, not by a land mine as originally reported, a NATO spokesman said today. He was the ninth alliance soldier to die since NATO troops began entering the Balkans in December.

President Clinton, when asked during a visit to New Hampshire Saturday if Dugan's death gave him second thoughts about the mission, replied, "No, not at all."

"I told the American people before it started the place was filled with mines," Clinton said, noting that other allied soldiers had been killed in land mine accidents.

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