

County: Stop the Death Penalty

By KATHRYN McLAMB
Staff Writer

NOV. 5 — Orange County has become the first county in the United States to issue a moratorium against the death penalty, expressing the need to reconsider the implications of the punishment.

The resolution, passed by the Orange County Board of Commissioners on Nov. 3, called for the state and federal governments to adopt legislation imposing a moratorium on executions until the system of issuing the death penalty could be re-examined for fairness.

"Orange County is a unique place, and it isn't surprising to me that we were the first county to pass this," Commissioner Alice Gordon said. "We saw something that needed to be

addressed."

Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Durham are among five municipalities nationwide that have passed similar moratoriums. Nebraska's state government was the first to temporarily halt executions.

People of Faith Against the Death Penalty, the organization that brought a similar proposal to the Chapel Hill Town Council, approached the commissioners with the idea of issuing a moratorium.

Organization representative Stephen Dear called on the commissioners to adopt the moratorium in an effort to guard the interests of their constituents.

"Local governments represent people who could be falsely convicted and given the death penalty," Dear said.

Officials noted that the moratorium did not constitute a stance either for or

against the death penalty itself.

"The moratorium seems like a reasonable course of action regardless of how you feel about the death penalty," Commissioner Barry Jacobs said. "We are asking that the inequities in the application of an irreversible penalty be resolved before we continue to execute people."

Organization and Orange County officials said they hoped the adoption of the moratorium would show state and national legislatures that Orange County was concerned about crime and punishment in its communities.

"It is a message to the legislature," said Marshall Dayan, an attorney who represents death row inmates for the Raleigh law firm Unti, Lumfden and Smith.

"These are elected officials who are concerned about what is going on in their communities."

If enough municipalities passed moratoriums, the N.C. Governor's Office might consider a statewide moratorium, said the Rev. Diane Corlett, president of the organization.

"The Governor's Office said they would not pay attention to four or five local moratoriums," Corlett said. "But if there were six, they might start paying attention. We are just trying to find that magic number."

While the moratorium sent a message, the resolution held no political weight because local governments do not issue the death penalty.

"This is a human issue," Jacobs said. "Hopefully we represent the interest of the citizens of Orange County when we pursue issues like this."

Waldorf Reclaims Top Seat

Local voters elected Mayor Rosemary Waldorf to her third term by a convincing margin over Susan Franklin.

By SARAH BRIER
AND DAWNE HOWARD
Staff Writers

NOV. 3 — Rosemary Waldorf showed that experience paid off as Chapel Hill residents expressed confidence in her leadership by re-electing the mayor in a landslide victory over challenger Susan Franklin.

Prior to the final poll tallies, Waldorf was at ease in her home and enjoying herself along with family and friends in a relaxed party atmosphere.

"I made a pact to enjoy the evening no matter what happens," Waldorf said.

When Waldorf learned she had won the election by defeating Susan Franklin, a cheer spread through the crowd.

"It's a relief the campaign is over," Waldorf said.

"I'm looking forward to working with the new council because I think it's a cohesive group."

Waldorf's husband, Gary, said he was relieved with the conclusion of the campaign and looked forward to her



Chapel Hill Mayor Rosemary Waldorf celebrates with her friends and family after being elected to her third consecutive term in November.

third term.

"I'm happy Rosemary won," he said. "It demonstrates the goodwill for her in this town."

Having served as the town's mayor since 1995, Waldorf said she was full of ideas regarding downtown development, parks, transportation and affordable housing.

"I'm very pleased to have been re-elected," Waldorf said. "I want to do the best job I can."

She said she would not waste any time before jumping back into her position as mayor.

"I'm trying to get a bus-load of volunteers to go to Speed on Saturdays to help with hurricane cleanup efforts," Waldorf said.

When the new Town Council members were announced, the excitement resounding for Julie Andresen McClintock's defeat almost equaled the pleasure for Waldorf's victory.

Mindy Elioto, Waldorf's campaign chairman, said McClintock and Waldorf often differed in opinion concerning the construction of Meadowmont, a mixed-use development site, in addition to sev-

eral other key issues that came in front of the council.

Some of Franklin's supporters said bad media coverage contributed to her loss.

Barbara Chaiken, from the Alliance for Neighborhoods, said the press did not treat all the candidates equally in coverage.

"The press is part of the campaign," she said.

"They have been biased and haven't printed news against candidates they were for."

However, Franklin said she did not blame the press for her loss.

She did say that she thought low voter turnout might have been a factor in the loss.

"I think it's important for people to understand how important it is to get out there and vote," she said.

Franklin supporter Arnold Loewy said that while his candidate lost, he was confident in Waldorf's ability to lead the town.

"I certainly was not voting against the incumbent, I was voting for the candidate and I congratulate the winner."

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