

Parties vie for minority vote

BY ERIN GIBSON
ASSISTANT STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The Democratic Party has monopolized minority registration and votes in past elections, but the Republican Party plans to make Democrats work to keep those constituents this election year.

The U.S. Census Web site shows that in 1994 more than 80 percent of black voters were Democrats, with 10 percent registered as Republicans and Independents.

Numbers show that Democratic support has only increased since then. But the Republicans are fighting for these votes by targeting issues important to minority communities.

Bush has set the example of trying to attract the minority population, which is a heavy church-going population, by focusing on morality issues, such as marriage.

Bill Peaslee, N.C. Republican Party chairman, said the party is attending events to tell people about its platform. He said they are emphasizing public education with the black population.

But the Republican Party has a history of representing wealthy

voters, even though minorities account for most of the lower-income households in the country.

The Democratic Party often pushes for government supported programs to help members of the lower economic classes.

"Minorities have by and large needed a helping hand more than anyone else," said N.C. Rep. Marvin Lucas, D-Cumberland. "No one wants a handout, just a hand up."

According to the N.C. State Board of Elections, only 4.4 percent of black voters were registered Republicans in October 2002.

Lucas said the Democratic Party has the upper hand at gaining minority votes because it focuses on issues most pertinent to minorities, including health care, human services and education.

"The Democrats have championed education," he said. "Minorities are in the public education systems more than any other group."

By making the party's presence known in the community, the Democratic Party is working hard to maintain its faithful constituents.

"We are getting people out there working across the state, in

the field, on the ground and door-to-door," said Barbara Allen, N.C. Democratic party chair.

Lucas said minority voters have a history of looking to church officials and community organizations for guidance on political issues, so the Democratic party is working with these groups to ensure their support.

"There are groups of grass-roots folks going into neighborhoods of formerly disenfranchised (residents)," he said.

UNC sophomore Yvonne Brooks said she thinks the Democratic party has worked harder to reach the black community by broadcasting advertisements on urban radio stations and television channels.

But Peaslee said the Republicans are working to get their message out to minority voters.

"We want people to have an unfiltered exposure to what the Republican Party is all about," he said. "They should be able to look at the two-party platform without any spin."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

Workers see changes to federal overtime policies

BY ALEXANDRA DODSON
STAFF WRITER

New federal regulations for overtime pay implemented Monday could affect the millions of Americans who work more than the standard 40-hour work week.

The regulations, revisions to the Fair Labor Standards Act, raise the maximum yearly salary workers can earn and still receive mandatory overtime pay from \$8,000 to \$23,660. Those earning more than \$100,000 typically will not be eligible.

The act still demands overtime pay for those working more than 40 hours a week, but workers earning between \$23,660 and \$100,000 will not be eligible if they hold executive, administrative or professional positions.

James Andrews, president of the N.C. state AFL-CIO, said these regulations are better than those proposed previously but still isolate many workers. The AFL-CIO is a national federation representing 13 million workers.

Andrews said research shows one million people benefitting from the new regulations, but six million could lose overtime pay entirely.

Employers might reclassify the job descriptions of workers in the \$23,660-\$100,000 category to exempt them from the extra pay, he said, because the job descriptions of executive, administrative and professional positions are subjective.

"Our experience is being replicated in other universities, both in-state and out-of-state."

CHARLES WALDRUP, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, UNC SYSTEM

Andrews said the new regulations are good for large companies and might be the Bush administration's way of rewarding businesses for their support.

"It's bad politics," Andrews said, adding that the regulation hurts those who worked hard to get into the middle class and now might not be eligible to receive extra pay for extra time worked.

But not all workers will be hurt by these new regulations.

Charles Waldrup, associate vice president for legal affairs for the UNC system, said he has not seen any cases where an employee will lose benefits, though his data was not extensive.

"I was just surprised," he said. "I had expected the opposite results."

Waldrup said he initially assumed many people would lose benefits, but found 10 to 15 people in his office alone who would become eligible for overtime pay after being exempt under the old rules.

He said the now-subject employees work as administrative assistants, engineers for UNC-TV and in other posts, all in the below-\$23,660 bracket.

Joanna Carey Smith, associate university counsel, said that UNC-Chapel Hill spent the summer reviewing different positions to determine the bill's effect, and that only a small percentage of the University's 10,000 employees will be affected.

"We may have taken a different approach than other employers," she said, adding that the University first looked at employees who will now be eligible for overtime pay.

Smith said the money used to pay employees for overtime work should come from the source of funds from which they already are paid. But as a public employer, the University can pay overtime via money or time off, she said.

In general, Waldrup said, most employees in the higher education field will find they will not lose benefits.

"Our experience is being replicated in other universities, both in-state and out-of-state," Waldrup said. "Maybe people in private industries will find it different."

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Phillip J. Anderson

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ACROSS

- 1 Baldwin and Guinness
- 6 Jalopy
- 10 Red coin?
- 14 Capital near Casablanca
- 15 Edmonton's prov.
- 16 Opposite of aweather
- 17 Blank gaze
- 18 Bellow
- 19 Peeved
- 20 Maximum P.S.I.?
- 23 Before, before
- 24 Ovid's outfit
- 25 Knock lightly
- 28 Mine in Marseilles
- 31 Aligned with a target
- 35 "Turn to Stone" rock grp.
- 36 Art school
- 38 Sea eagle
- 39 Maximum R.P.M.?
- 43 Hooked on
- 44 T-bone or strip
- 45 Actor Wallace
- 46 Tyrant
- 49 Banjoist
- 50 Dodge fuel
- 51 Island guitars, briefly
- 53 Bond's Fleming
- 55 Maximum M.P.H.?
- 62 Song for Callas

DOWN

- 1 "Poetica"
- 2 Thin strip of wood
- 3 Online auction house
- 4 diem (seize the day)
- 5 Cheap ocean passage
- 6 Spy Mata
- 7 North Carolina university
- 8 Toward the stern
- 9 Reception room
- 10 Rhythm instrument

11 "The Time Machine" race

- 12 Roman fiddler
- 13 Adolescent
- 21 Came across again
- 22 Khan IV
- 25 Lukewarm
- 26 Coeur d' ID
- 27 Harbor cities
- 29 Cross to bear
- 30 Really angry
- 32 Norwegian composer
- 33 "Gay"
- 34 Potvin or Leary
- 37 Zeno of

40 Masses

- 41 Soprano Callas
- 42 Neighbor of Texas
- 47 Positive hand signals
- 48 Conical shelters
- 52 Dish up
- 54 Israeli desert
- 55 Prominence
- 56 "Battle Cry" writer
- 57 Tilt to one side
- 58 Spirited vigor
- 59 Auto mishap
- 60 Singer Guthrie
- 61 Mazar of "Civil Wars"
- 65 Blue

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SNAG	ETTE	NEATH
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NORAD	STAIRS	
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