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State Primary Election Set For June 29, Residents May Register Now Through June 1

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK
Editor

The state primary election will be held on Tuesday, June 29 now that the game of "musical chairs," played by redistricting North Carolina counties, is over. The State Board of Elections announced the date last week after final approval of the third set of N.C. Senate and House redistricting plans by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Locally, voters will go to the polls to vote for state judicial offices, a U.S. Congress representative, a state senator, clerk of court, county commissioners, school board members, and a sheriff under their party banner. In addition, voters will vote for or against five state constitutional amendments.

The official filing deadline for candidates ended Friday, May 7, but state and federal officials worked out a compromise last week to allow the deadline to be moved to Monday, May 17 under a rarely used petition rule in the general statutes, according to Alex Brock, state elections director.

PERSONS NEEDING TO REGISTER to vote in the primary have until 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 1 to register, according to Carol M. Anderson, county elections supervisor. Residents who are not sure as to whether or not they are registered may contact the Madison County Board of Elections in the Ramsey Building on Main Street in Marshall, she said.

Residents who will turn 18 before the November general election may also register to vote in the primary before the 5 p.m. June 1 registration deadline, Brock said. Those persons may vote in the primary for candidates in their party, but they can not vote on the constitutional amendments, he said.

Mrs. Anderson said absentee ballots will be allowed in the June 29 primary. The deadline for applying for absentee ballots is 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 24. Residents will be able to vote by absentee ballots if sickness or physical disability will prevent them from voting on election day, or if the voter expects to be absent from the county during the entire time the polls are open on election day, she said.

The final redistricting plan, approved by the U.S. Department of Justice after much haggling with state officials, places Madison County in the 28th State Senate District comprised of Madison, Buncombe, Yancey and McDowell counties. The accepted N.C. House redistricting plan places Madison in the 52nd House District with Haywood, Jackson, and Swain counties and the Stecoah and Yellow Creek townships of Graham County.

HOUSE SPEAKER LISTON RAMSEY and State Representative Charles Beall, who are running unopposed on the Democratic ticket, will pick up approximately 1,600 constituents in the two Graham County townships.

The two townships account for nearly 25 percent of the registered voters in Graham and registration in those areas is more than 2 to 1 Republican. The redistricting of the townships to the 52nd District has caused quite a flap among Graham GOP leaders. Republican leaders have said the move will dilute Republican voting strength in the 53rd District made up of Cherokee, Clay, Graham and Macon counties.

Madison County remains in the 11th Congressional District comprised of Buncombe, Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Haywood, Henderson, Jackson, McDowell, Macon, Mitchell, Polk, Rutherford, Swain, Transylvania, Yancey and part of Avery.

In the Democratic primary for N.C. Court of Appeals judgeships, voters will have the opportunity to elect candidates to fill three seats: For the seat of Naomi Morris (incumbent), James P. Crews, George W. Lennon, Bert M. Montague, Eugene H. Phillips and H. Horton Roundtree. For the seat of Robert Martin (incumbent), Sidney S. Eagles Jr., Zinnie Lawrence Riggs, and Paul Wright. For the seat of Edward B. Clark (incumbent), E. Maurice Braswell and Marvin Schiller.

A Republican primary for the District Court judge's seat held by Democratic incumbent Charles Phillip Ginn in the 24th Judicial District will pit Forrest F. Ball against Joseph W.

Seegers for the Republican nomination.

TEN DEMOCRATS and four Republicans will be vying for their party's nominations in the Madison County Board of Commissioners primaries. All three commissioners seats will be up for grabs in the November election.

In the Democratic primary for commissioners, the candidates are Ervin Adams, Virginia Anderson, Jackie Ball, Ralph Brackens, Robert G. Capps, Howard Chandler, William Chandler, James T. Ledford, Tom Merrill and Reese Steen.

Candidates for the Republican nomination for commissioners are Robert Phillips, Gregory A. Sprinkle, Thomas S. West and Lester C. Wilde.

In the Madison County Board of Education race, six Democrats and five Republicans are seeking their perspective party's nomination for five available seats. Candidates in the Democratic primary are Michael Allen, Dedrick Cody, Edward Gentry, R.Z. Ponder, Floyd Wallin and Gerald Young. Republican primary candidates are Dewey Griffey Jr., Don Hall, Ed Krause, Fred Thomas Payne, and Harry D. Payne.

STATE SEN. JAMES McClure Clarke of Fairview and John Garfield Kleibor of Asheville are both seeking the Democratic nomination for the 11th District congressional seat now held by Republican Rep. Bill Hendon of Asheville. Hendon is unopposed in the primary since Jack Brettlir, a Franklin mining executive, withdrew from the congressional race and filed for state Senate.

Dennis J. Winner, Robert S. Swain and Zeb H. Sheppard are seeking the Democratic Party nomination for two seats in the state Senate.

Here in Madison, William R. Lisenbee and Lue Allon Silver are after the Republican nomination for the office of sheriff. Democratic incumbent E.Y. Ponder has no opponent in the Democratic primary.

Democrats James W. Cody and Loyd F. Fowler, both of Marshall, will face off for the party nomination in the clerk of court contest.



TEACHING AWARD — Joe Chris Robertson (left) receives the 1982 R.S. Gibbs Distinguished Teaching Award from Mars

Hill College Academic Vice President Richard L. Hoffman at the recent Honors Day ceremonies. (See Story on Page 10)

Four-year Term Included

5 Constitutional Amendments On Primary Election Ballot

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Voters participating in the June 29 state primary election will be able to cast their ballots for or against five state constitutional amendments, only one of which has received much publicity in recent months.

The first amendment listed on the official ballot would "make the term of members of the General Assembly four years, beginning with members elected in 1982; and conforming amendments concerning the election of other officers and the filling of vacancies," if passed by the voters.

The four-year-term amendment is being backed by several key members of the General Assembly including Kenneth Royal (D-Durham) and Craig Lawing (D-Mecklenburg). But, a campaign to defeat the amendment on the ballot was initiated by Tom Gilmore, former deputy secretary of the state Department of Human Resources and

former legislator, several months ago. Gilmore, a probable Democratic candidate for governor in 1984, has received the support of three former N.C. governors, James Holshouser, Bob Scott and Terry Sanford, in mounting an effort to defeat the amendment.

Gov. Jim Hunt, apparently recognizing the necessity of getting along with proponents of the amendment in the legislature, has taken no stand on the issue.

The four other constitutional amendments read as follows on the ballot:

Amendment 2: "authorizing General Assembly to provide for temporary recall of retired Supreme Court Justices or Court of Appeals Judges to serve temporarily on either appellate court."

Amendment 3: "giving the Supreme Court authority to review, when authorized by law, direct appeals from the N.C. Utilities Commission."

Amendment 4: "to permit the General Assembly to grant to appropriate public bodies additional powers to develop new and existing seaports and airports, including powers to finance and refinance for public and private parties seaport and airport and related commercial, industrial, manufacturing, processing, mining, transportation, distribution, storage, marine, aviation and environmental facilities and improvements."

Amendment 5: "to permit the General Assembly to enact general laws to authorize the State, or any state entity to issue revenue bonds to finance or refinance the cost of acquiring, constructing and financing higher education facilities for any nonprofit private corporation, regardless of any church or religious relationship, such bonds to be payable from any revenues or assets of any such nonprofit private corporation pledged therefor."

Residents Graduate From Colleges

Nearly 20 Madison County college students were awarded degrees at area and state commencement exercises held over the weekend.

Dr. Fred Bentley, president of Mars Hill College, presented 250 diplomas to graduating seniors Sunday in the college's Moore Auditorium. Bentley told graduates, faculty and parents "bold leadership — people with a dream and the courage to make it happen" is needed for the 1980s.

Madison County residents

receiving diplomas from Bentley were:

From Hot Springs — June Gahagan and Donna Marie Anderson.

From Marshall — Durril Dewayne Talor and Beverly Jean Ball.

From Mars Hill — Patricia Diane Buckner, Augusta Ann Jenkins, Mark Wendell Moore, Doris Gosnell Rice, Isaac Welch Jr., James Marvin Burnett, Cynthia Ann Stanton, Anthony T. Burnett, Becky Devine Byrd, Rebecca Ann Jarvis, James Harold

Jenkins, Michael Ray Evans, and David Robert Byrd.

Nine Madison residents graduated from Western Carolina University at Cullowhee Sunday morning where the deans from each of the university's six schools conferred degrees on 286 graduates in Whitmire Stadium.

John R. Jordan Jr., chairman of the board of governors of the University of North Carolina delivered the commencement address urging

the students to "commit yourself to goals that are worthy of you."

Madison WCU graduates were:

From Hot Springs — Theresa Kay Banks, master's degree, early childhood education; Juanita W. Boone, master's degree, middle grade education; John William Graeter, master's degree, business administration; Burnette Lee Moore, industrial technology; and Patricia Ann Ramsey, nursing, cum laude.

From Mars Hill — Charles W. Cutshall, master's degree, educational administration; James Oren Roberts, master's degree, public affairs; and Janice Rowland Smith, master's degree, home economics.

Thomas D. Carr of Mars Hill received his master's degree in English from North Carolina State University in Raleigh Saturday. Thomas was one of 3,400 NCSU graduates to receive a diploma from Acting Chancellor Nash N. Winstead during graduation exercises in the William Neal Reynolds Coliseum.

Daniel James Sheshan of Marshall received a bachelor's degree in Urban and regional planning and geography May 8 at East Carolina University, Greenville.

Warren Earle Wise, also of Marshall, is a candidate for a Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Jones Seeks State Senate Seat

Dr. Thomas L. Jones, an Asheville dentist, has announced his candidacy for a seat in the state Senate from the 28th District composed of Buncombe, Madison, McDowell and Yancey counties.

An unsuccessful Democratic candidate for the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners in 1980, Jones is now a Republican and will

be unopposed in the Republican primary election on June 29. He will face three Democrats in the Nov. 2 general election for one of the two Senate seats.

Jones is a graduate of the University of South Florida and received professional training at the Medical College of Virginia, where he was elected to Sigma Zeta Honor Society.

County Schools Get State Accreditation

Madison County's six elementary schools and the consolidated Madison High School recently received accreditation from the North Carolina State Board of Education.

Superintendent Robert L. Edwards and Dr. Bobby Jean Rice, supervisor of schools, made the final accreditation report to the state Board of Education in Greensboro on May 5.

Achieving state accreditation was the culmination of a year of evaluation and planning, school officials said. A study of all phases of the

school system's educational process and all support services was conducted under the guidance of Austin Simpson, consultant with the State Department of Public Instruction, before awarding the accreditation.

School officials said the curriculum has been updated, new teaching techniques have been implemented, test scores have improved, the drop out rate decreased, and new programs have been added.

The schools have received state accreditation every year since 1977, officials said.



BOUND FOR KOREA — Four Madison County residents left Tuesday for a 13-day evangelistic mission to South Korea. (From left) Rev. Charles (Buddy) Freeman, Mike Allen, Stuart Franklin and Wade Huey will be traveling to Seoul, Korea for the Foreign Missions Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. The four men will return to Marshall June 5.

Geno Delafosse Steals Show. See Story On Page 3.