

DAVID HUNTER
DIAMONT

N.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

40TH DISTRICT: ALLEGHANY, ASHE,
STOKES, SURRY AND WATAUGA COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 6, 1990



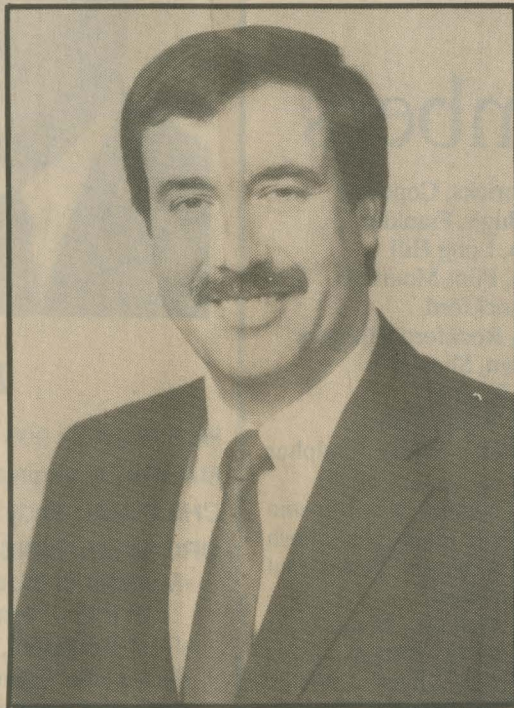
- David Hunter Diamont — 44 years old, married to the former Debby Severs — daughter, Ashley (4), infant son, David
- Hometown — Pilot Mountain
- History Teacher and former Head Football Coach at East Surry High School
- B.A. Degree, Wake Forest University, 1968
M.A. Degree, Appalachian State University, 1972
- Member First United Methodist Church of Pilot Mountain
- History Teacher, Football and Basketball Assistant Coach at Mt. Airy Sr. High School, 1968-1971, 1972-1977
- Elected 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, and 1988 to the N. C. House of Representatives
- Ranked **FIRST** out of 120 House Members in "Effectiveness" according to a survey of Legislators, Lobbyists and Capital Reporters conducted by the N. C. Center for Public Policy Research in 1989-1990
- Awarded "Consumer Advocate of the Year, 1988" by the Consumer Council of N. C.
- Awarded "Legislator of the Year, 1990" by the N. C. Sierra Club
- Chairman, House Appropriations Committee, 1989-90 session
- Democratic Party

RE-ELECT
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DIAMONT

N.C. House Of Representatives

40th District: Alleghany, Ashe,
Stokes, Surry and Watauga
Counties

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Paid For By The Candidate



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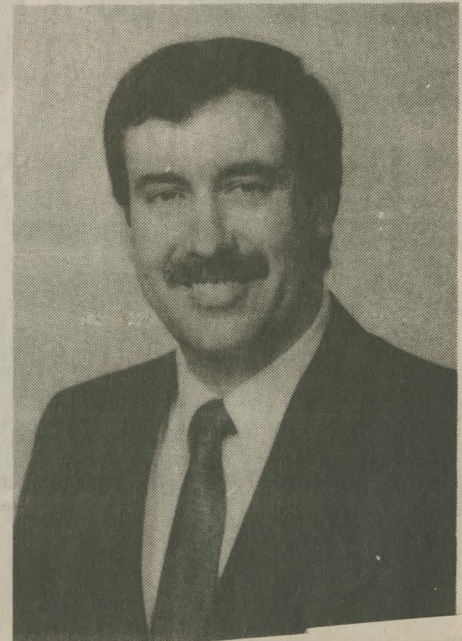
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**Let's Keep Surry County's
Strong Voice In The General Assembly!**

**Re-elect Surry County's
ONLY RESIDENT
Legislative Candidate.**

Ranked **FIRST** out of 120 House Members in "Effectiveness" according to a survey of Legislators, Lobbyists and Capital Reporters conducted by the N. C. Center for Public Policy Research in 1989-1990.

Democratic Party



Vote For Strong Leadership
In Surry County ... Vote

DEMOCRATIC

For County Commissioners



Fred O'Neal
"A record of accomplishment."

For Sheriff



Melvin Jackson
"Experience counts."



Dr. Jim Harrell
"Honest, caring leadership."

For Clerk Of Court



Wayne Whitener
"A qualified leader."



Pat Coe Todd
"Trained by the best."

The positions these fine candidates seek can have profound impacts on our lives — on the taxes we pay, on the education our children receive, on the safety of our neighborhoods, on the proper functioning of our court system, and these fine candidates form one of the strongest leadership teams ever assembled. They're experienced, educated, qualified leaders — the kind of leaders this county deserves. Compare their qualifications. You'll be proud to vote for them, too.

VOTE FOR STRONG LEADERSHIP IN NORTH CAROLINA...

For District Attorney

Jim Dellinger

For District Judge

Otis M. "Bud" Oliver

For U.S. Senate

Harvey Gantt

For U.S. House of Rep.

Steve Neal

For N.C. Supreme Court

Chief Jim Exum

Willis Whichard

John Webb

For N.C. House

Dave Diamond

Judy Hunt

Wade Wilmoth

For N.C. Court of Appeals

Judge Sidney Eagles

Judge Eddie Green

Judge Clifton Johnson

Judge Sarah Parker

Judge Eugene Phillips

Judge Hugh Wells

James A. Wynn, Jr.

For N.C. Senate

Sandy Sands

Bill Goldston

For Superior Court

Judge Loto Greenlee

Judge Zoro J. Guice, Jr.

Judge Robert P. Johnston

Quentin T. Sumner

Marcus Johnson

Julia Jones

William Z. Wood, Jr.

Vote DEMOCRATIC

Paid Political Advertisement

1990

Effectiveness Survey Results • House (1989)

Overall Effectiveness Ranking	Legislators' Evaluation	Lobbyists' Evaluation	Capital Correspondents' Evaluation	Overall Effectiveness Raw Score
1. Diamont (D-Surry)	82.3	85.2	87.6	85.0
2. Mavretic (D-Edgecombe)	81.8	79.9	89.5	83.7
3. Miller (D-Durham)	74.2	81.6	73.8	76.5
4. Rhyne (R-Lincoln)	75.1	76.3	76.7	76.0
5. Payne (D-New Hanover)	73.8	75.2	76.2	75.1
6. Blue (D-Wake)	71.9	76.1	72.4	73.5
7. Wicker (D-Lee)	68.5	78.0	72.4	73.0
8. Hunt, Sam (D-Alamance)	67.2	71.2	79.1	72.5
9. Hackney (D-Orange)	71.5	73.1	71.9	72.2
10. Hunter, Robert (D-McDowell)	69.0	75.1	63.3	69.1
11. Ramsey (D-Madison)	70.2	72.8	63.3	68.8
12. Nesbitt (D-Buncombe)	66.9	73.0	64.3	68.1
13. Cooper (D-Nash)	68.4	66.5	68.1	67.7
14. Hall (D-New Hanover)	64.8	67.4	63.8	65.3
15. Michaux (D-Durham)	55.2	62.9	67.6	61.9
16. Thompson, S. (D-Durham)	58.1	62.5	64.0	61.5
17. DeVane (D-Hoke)	62.9	59.9	61.0	61.3
18. Redwine (D-Brunswick)	59.0	65.9	56.2	60.4
19. Duncan (R-Forsyth)	58.1	63.0	59.1	60.1
20. Watkins (D-Granville)	63.0	66.3	49.1	59.5
21. Barnes, Anne (D-Orange)	58.2	55.9	60.5	58.2

State Legislative Races Quiet; Candidates Eye Budget Crisis

By R.J. BERRIER
News Staff Writer

Compared to political campaigns in prior years, the contests in the 24th Senate and 40th House districts are quiet affairs.

In the N.C. Senate race, there are two Democratic incumbents — W.D. "Bill" Goldston Jr., 64, of Eden and A.P. "Sandy" Sands III, 44, of Reidsville.

They are matched against Republicans Marshall Hall, 67, of King, and Lee Q. McMillan, 58, of Ashe County.

Each of the two legislative seats in the 24th Senate District is subject to the wishes of the voters.

Senate Race

Sands said he believes the key issues facing the state at present are "our soaring crime rate, particularly evidenced by the increasing involvement with illegal drugs, improving the educational opportunity of our children and promoting economic growth without damaging our sensitive environment."

Sands touched on his sponsorship of Senate Bill 77, passed by the General Assembly, making possession of any amount of cocaine a felony. He also advocated increasing the capacity of prisons, alternative sentencing options and educating the people about the danger of drugs.

The Reidsville attorney further urged increasing funding for the schools, "with more local flexibility

and accountability."

Goldston views the key issues in the campaign as the state's budget shortfall and "how to improve our education system without breaking the state." This would be his primary goal if re-elected, "to get the state back on a sound financial basis and to improve our education process."

One other goal, Goldston asserted, would be to shorten the sessions of the General Assembly.

Hall, in an earlier interview in the spring, commented that he was waging a quiet campaign. "With two children who are schoolteachers," he said, "I am familiar with the problems of education."

The former lawmaker — he was a member of the N.C. House of Representatives in 1973-74 and again in 1985-86 — said he is offering the constituents of the district "my past legislative experience." His major committee assignments when he was serving in the House were Finance and Insurance.

Hall, who lives at Rt. 5, King, is a hearing officer with the N.C. Department of Motor vehicles.



McMillan, a retired Navy commander and businessman, said in an earlier interview that his special interests in this campaign would be education, the environment and roads.

He advocates splitting the sprawling 24th Senate District, which stretches from Watauga County to Rockingham County. The candidate noted, "It is a long way to Rockingham County from up here (Ashe County)."

McMillan also is concerned with the manner in which the upcoming General Assembly will redraw the district, following this year's census.

State House

Voters will decide among six candidates to fill the three legislative seats that are open in the 40th House District.

The Democratic candidates include two incumbents, David Hunter Diamont, 44, of Pilot Mountain and Judy Hunt, 41, of Blowing Rock, and a former member of the state House, Wade Wilmoth, 55, of Boone.

Diamont, who has served in the N.C. House since 1975, is stressing education, the environment and the necessity for providing resources to speed up the criminal process and put those guilty of crimes in jail.

His primary goal if re-elected, Diamont said, would be "to help build a consensus among the Legislature and constituents on how to meet our state's needs, provide the leadership

State Legislative Candidates

Lee McMillan

Republican
State Senate



Age: 58.
Education: Attended Healing Springs School through the 10th-grade, then Central High School in Washington, D.C.; attended the U.S. Naval Academy from 1952-56 and received a commission as an ensign.
Profession: Retired Navy commander (1976); businessman.
Family: One daughter, Tracie, a UNC student.
Political Experience: None.

1. What are the key issues in your campaign?

My special interests are education, the environment and roads.

2. What would you offer to government?

My experience in the technical world that will enable me to do the research to make the necessary decisions.

3. What would be your primary goal if elected?

To ensure that the next Legislature draws the election district in a way in which the elected officials can better represent the people. The 24th Senate District should be divided and have single candidates. It is a long way to Rockingham County from us here (Ashe County).

Marshall Hall

Republican
State Senate



Age: 67.
Education: King High School.
Profession: Hearing officer, N.C. Department of Motor Vehicles.
Family: Three children, Barry, Bruce and Emily; two grandchildren.
Political Experience: Served in the N.C. House of Representatives in 1973-74 and 1985-86.

1. What are the key issues in your campaign?

I am waging a very quiet campaign. With two children who are schoolteachers, I am familiar with the problems of education.

2. What would you offer to government?

My past legislative experience. Major committee assignments in the House were Finance and Insurance.

3. What would be your primary goal if elected?

I haven't set one aside. ... I'm a strong believer in youth and also the senior citizens.

Jack Bailey

Republican
State House



Age: 70.
Education: High school.
Profession: Retired owner of Jack Bailey Insurance Services Inc., and Century Insurance Finance Co.
Family: Wife, Carol; children, Susan, Jennifer and Jack Jr.
Political Experience: Began as precinct chairman shortly after being discharged from the U.S. Army after the Korean Conflict; served as Stokes County Republican chairman from 1983-89; now serves as Fifth Congressional District chairman and on the GOP Central Committee; was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1984 and attended the convention in 1988 in New Orleans.

1. What are the key issues in your campaign?

Education — It is time to find the causes of our poor record in education, and correct our faults. Money is not necessarily the answer; **Drugs** — We have to do more to discourage drug users, in addition to working hard to stop the drug dealers; **Senior citizens** — They should not be made to be wards of the state through legislation; **Roads** — Roads cannot and will not be built and maintained if our legislators continue to raid the monies of the state Highway Fund.

2. What would you offer to government?

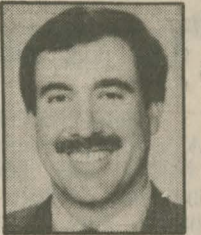
My 40 years of experience working for others and for myself in business and in civic organizations gives me an understanding of the problems of making a living and solving the problems encountered in life. I have a strong interest in seeing government return to the people.

3. What would be your primary goal if elected?

If elected, my primary goal is to represent the people of

David Diamont

Democrat
State House



Age: 44.
Education: Wake Forest University, B.A., 1969; Appalachian State University, M.A., 1972.
Profession: Teacher of social studies, East Surry High School.
Family: Wife, Debby; daughter, Ashley, 4; son, David James, 9 months.
Political Experience: Have served eight terms in the N.C. House of Representatives, from 1975 to the present.

1. What are the key issues in your campaign?

We need to provide more leadership and resources for all three educational systems (public education, community colleges and higher education), to train and prepare the work force and citizens for the future. We also need protection for the environment and to provide resources to enhance the process of sentencing criminals to prison.

2. What would you offer to government?

As a classroom teacher and parent, I feel that I bring a unique preparation to the legislative process. Since 47 percent of the general fund budget goes to public schools, my everyday contact with students is most helpful. Plus, I know my five-county district.

3. What would be your primary goal if elected?

My primary goals would be to help build a consensus among legislators and constituents on how to meet our state's needs, and provide leadership for using our tax dollars wisely. Also, to maintain close contact with my district!

Bill Goldston

Democrat



Sandy Sands

Democrat



Bill Goldston
Democrat
State Senate



Age: 64.
Education: Graduate, Leaksville public schools; O-k Ridge Military Institute; attended UNC; B.S., High Point College; UNC Executive Program.
Profession: Investor; vice president, Standard Holding Corp.
Family: Wife, Beverly; son, W. David Goldston III.
Political Experience: N.C. Senate.

- 1. What are the key issues in your campaign?**
The key issues are the budget shortfall and how to improve our educational system without breaking the state.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
I offer budget experience: six years on the Appropriations Committee, four years on the Finance Committee; educational experience: nine years on the local school board, two years working with appropriations for education, four years on the Public School Forum.
- 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
My primary goal would be to solve the issues mentioned in item 1, to get the state of North Carolina back on a sound financial basis and to improve our educational process so we produce a better-educated student who can cope with jobs that will be offered in the future. One other goal would be to shorten the sessions of the General Assembly.

Sandy Sands
Democrat
State Senate



Age: 44.
Education: Graduate, Reidsville Senior High School; A.B., political science, Duke University; J.D. with honors, UNC School of Law.
Profession: Attorney.
Family: Wife, Ginny; children, Andy, 15, Anna, 12.
Political Experience: Two terms in the N.C. Senate.

- 1. What are the key issues in your campaign?**
The key issues are our soaring crime rate, particularly evidenced by the increasing involvement with illegal drugs; improving the educational opportunity of our children; promoting economic growth without damaging our sensitive environment; increasing the capacity of our prisons, and providing alternative sentencing options; and educating our people about the danger of drugs.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
I offer experience, dedication and a willingness to work hard to solve the problems of the state. I feel I have the ability to face each decision with an open mind, listen to all positions and make an informed decision. I care deeply about the future of North Carolina and I want to be able to help make a difference.
- 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
My primary goal, if re-elected, would be to continue my efforts to improve the quality of life of the people of North Carolina ... such as making our streets and communities safe for all citizens, providing improved educational opportunities for everyone, providing improved employment opportunities and protecting our environment.

- Fund.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
My 40 years of experience working for others and for myself in business and in civic organizations gives me an understanding of the problems of making a living and solving the problems encountered in life. I have a strong interest in seeing government return to the people.
 - 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
If elected, my primary goal is to represent the people of the 40th House District honorably, and to the best of my ability. I want to see that our tax dollars are spent wisely, not wasted on vote-buying projects.

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Paul Huffman
Republican
State House



Age: 32.
Education: Appalachian State University.
Profession: Owner and agent of health insurance brokerage firm.
Family: Wife, Jill; children, Amy, 10, and Jacob, 8.
Political Experience: Was a candidate for the 40th House District in 1988; served on the Executive Committee of the County Republican Party.

- 1. What are the key issues in your campaign?**
Literacy is particularly a problem. I would like to see increased parental involvement in education, increased adult literacy programs and reduction of the role of Public Instruction in the state. I also want tougher laws on drunk drivers.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
I would work diligently to be accountable to the people of the 40th House District in education and insurance. I would like to see the state dealing responsibly with the environment.
- 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
First, to improve literacy in the state; second, to increase the number of good jobs; and third, to increase the state's role in education, and return local control to the people.

Wade Wilmoth
Democrat
State House

Age: 55.
Education: Dobson High School, Appalachian State University, B.S., 1956.
Profession: Realtor; insurance business.
Family: Wife, Sue; children, Greg and April.
Political Experience: Boone City Council; two-term mayor of Boone; member of the 1987-88 N.C. General Assembly.

- 1. What are the key issues in your campaign?**
Getting a grip on the state budget will be one of the first priorities. Education is second only because the budget has to be in order before the legislative body can make good and well-thought-out decisions. Building a strong economic base is a must so we can accomplish the other two issues.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
Experience — having served on the City Council, having been a two-term mayor and having served in the N.C. House of Representatives.
- 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
Listening to the people's needs of the 40th House District, and helping bring about solutions to the above priorities.

Judy Hunt
Democrat
State House



Age: 41.
Education: Meredith College, B.A.; Appalachian State University, M.A.
Profession: Real estate broker; legislator.
Family: Husband, William H. Kohler; daughter, Jackie, 11.
Political Experience: Two terms in the N.C. House of Representatives.

- 1. What are the key issues in your campaign?**
The key issues are creating a strong economic climate so that educational needs can be met, and a safe environment is preserved. Many of the problems that we are facing now and that we will face in the future — such as crime, drugs, dropouts, adolescent pregnancy, infant mortality, etc. — can best be addressed by nurturing the well-educated citizenry. When people are well-trained for jobs that offer them hope and economic security, they are less inclined to become a part of the above-mentioned groups. Preserving safe drinking water and clean air must be a priority in the future, especially in the face of North Carolina becoming a dump for low-level radioactive waste from eight (or more) states. Again, it takes money, economic strength, for a state to be able to monitor its water and air and provide proper safeguards.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
I believe I can offer a degree of experience and dedication that would be useful in the Legislature. Having four years' legislative experience, five years' teaching experience and being a wife and mother in a working, small business family, I believe I can bring a needed perspective to Raleigh.
- 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
My primary goals would be to help establish credibility with the budget process in North Carolina and strengthen our economic base so that we can provide the kind of education and job training needed for the future. A special effort should be made to assist rural areas, so that there are opportunities everywhere to enjoy prosperity. Only when our state is on strong economic footing can we spend the money necessary to improve the lives of all children.

Gene Wilson
Republican
State House



Age: 61.
Education: High school.
Profession: Local farmer, semi-retired; owner of Dan'l Boone Inn.
Family: Wife, Odenia; children, Tim, Keva and Travis; four grandchildren.
Political Experience: Have served multiple terms in the General Assembly and on the Watanga County Board of Commissioners for 10 years.

- 1. What are the key issues in your campaign?**
Education is the key issue facing this state. We have to fund more for grades kindergarten through 12th, and provide better facilities and smaller class sizes along with additional funds for vocational education, community colleges and universities. All of this with parental involvement will make for better education; solid waste is one of our major issues. To control this, it will take total commitment from every man, woman and child; there needs to be more done for human services in the fields of health, mental health, infant mortality, handicapped children and adolescent pregnancy. The place to start is to control the growth of government and administration.
- 2. What would you offer to government?**
I hope to continue serving the people of my district to the best of my ability. I will also address the economic and environmental issues at hand. And I strongly believe that my past experience and dedication will enable me to continue serving the public.
- 3. What would be your primary goal if elected?**
All of the above — education, a clean environment and solid-waste issues are my primary goals. I hope to continue working on the local level with agencies dealing with such issues as mental health and public health and civic officials. Plus, to continue as a member of the Caldwell Community College Board of Trustees.

State

Continued from page 1A

to use our tax dollars wisely and maintain close contact with my district."
Wilmoth, a native of Surry County, says that one of his top priorities would be "getting a grip on the state budget," followed by education, which he puts second "only because the budget has to be in order before the legislative body can make good and well-thought-out decisions."
Hunt also is concerned with "creating a strong economic climate so that educational needs can be met and a safe environment preserved." Along this line of thought, she said that if re-elected, her primary goal will be

"to help establish credibility with the budget process ... and strengthen our economic base."
The Republican candidates include incumbent Gene Wilson, 61, of Boone, and challengers Paul Huffman, 32, of Boone and Jack M. Bailey Sr., 70, of Walnut Cove.
Wilson regards education as the key issue and advocates more funding, as well as parental involvement. He also is concerned about solid-waste disposal and says that more needs to be done for human services. He advocates controlling the growth of government and administration.

Huffman, who also sought the House seat in 1988, is concerned with literacy in the 40th District. He advocates increased parental involvement in education, expanding family and adult literacy programs and reducing the role of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. He also would like to see tougher laws against drunk drivers.
Bailey is stressing education in his campaign, noting, "It is time to find the cause of our poor record in education and correct our faults." Other concerns of the candidate are drug users and dealers, senior citizens and the raids on state highway funds.

Battle for Speaker Takes Unusual Turn

By Ken Otterbourg
JOURNAL RALEIGH BUREAU

Nov. 16 '90

Friday

RALEIGH

The battle to remove House Speaker Josephus L. Mavretic took an unusual but apparently decisive turn yesterday as Mavretic and a dozen of his supporters agreed to support Rep. Daniel T. Blue Jr., giving Blue enough votes among Democrats to become the next speaker.

Blue, a lawyer from Raleigh who has served five terms in the state House, would be the state's first black speaker. He was one of five Democrats who had announced that they wanted to take the speaker's job away from Mavretic, D-Edgecombe.

"It's over," said Rep. Howard J. Hunter Jr., D-Northampton, a Blue supporter who has watched the frantic politicking among the speaker candidates as they tried to line up support.

The speaker's job is among the most powerful and demanding in state government. The speaker controls floor debate, appoints chairmen to legislative committees and assigns bills to those

See MAVRETIC, Page 3

MAVRETIC

Continued From Page 1

committees. Through all three actions, the speaker can influence the fate of legislation in the General Assembly.

Blue's top competitor for the post was Rep. Robert C. Hunter, D-McDowell. Blue and Hunter each had about 33 supporters among House Democrats before the Mavretic group swung its support.

Blue's support came from urban Democrats and the black caucus, and Hunter's strength was in the mountains and the coast. Neither man could be reached for comment yesterday.

Mavretic's coalition, built on a small core of Democrats sharing power with 46 Republicans, began unraveling in earnest on Election Day. The Republicans lost seven seats, making it extremely difficult for Mavretic to piece together the 61 votes needed to win a majority of all House votes.

The climax came late Wednesday

at a long meeting held at the house of Rep. R. Donald Beard, D-Cumberland. After checking their arithmetic, they realized that Mavretic couldn't win. With that possibility scratched, they turned to other candidates and backed Blue. They called him late Wednesday night to tell him of their decision.

Mavretic said yesterday that he expects his supporters to play a significant role in Blue's reorganization of the House of Representatives because his group provided Blue with the votes to give him a victory in a Democratic caucus, which will officially choose a nominee in early December.

Though it's possible that Hunter or another candidate could pull an upset at the caucus, that outcome is highly unlikely, Democrats say, because of the fear that a last-minute battle might give an opening for Republicans to help make the selection.

Rep. Dennis A. Wicker, the House Majority Leader, said, "What happened last (Wednesday) night was a tremendous boost to his (Blue's) candidacy."

Choosing a speaker from within the Democratic majority has been an important goal for Wicker, who has often battled with Mavretic on legislative and political issues.

Blue, 41, is a managing partner in a Raleigh law firm. A Lumberton



DANIEL BLUE

native, he has a bachelor's degree from N.C. Central University and a law degree from Duke University. A member of the Appropriations, Rules and Legislative Services committees, he has consistently ranked among the 10 most effective House members, based on surveys of legislators, lobbyists and the capital press corps.

Mavretic's tenure as speaker was a stormy period, with Democrats deeply divided about his tactics in using a sizeable Republican minority to topple longtime speaker Rep. Liston B. Ramsey, D-Madison. Mavretic said that Ramsey legislated behind closed doors and used pork-barrel politics to reward supporters and punish opponents.

Mavretic infuriated members of his own party by giving Republicans important legislative positions in exchange for their support. The result was a more open, but often chaotic, General Assembly that had trouble reaching decisions on tough issues.

The tough issues haven't gone away.

Blue faces a glut of problems that center around a deteriorating state budget.

Rep. David H. Diamont, D-Surry, said, "There will be less internal problems and more external problems."

Diamont Will Not Seek Speaker's Seat

From Staff And Wire Reports

Democratic Rep. Dave Diamont, Surry County's only delegate in the state House of Representatives, has withdrawn from the running for the speaker of the house seat.

"I think that the speaker's race is over at this point," Diamont said today in a telephone interview from East Surry High School in Pilot Mountain, where he teaches.

"At some point, you see the handwriting on the wall or you can read the tea leaves," the legislator remarked, adding that he had not managed to garner enough support to seek the seat now held by Joe Mavretic (D-Edgecombe).

Diamont, who has just been elected to his ninth consecutive House term, had announced in August that he would seek the position, saying he did not think Mavretic, who managed to topple longtime Speaker Liston Ramsey from the seat, should serve two consecutive terms.

At the time of Diamont's announcement, political analysts believed that it signaled a

breakup of a coalition of House Republicans and 20 Democrats who united to put Mavretic in the powerful position.

Diamont was one of four Democrats who announced their intentions to seek the seat.

However, he explained today his reasons for dropping from the race.

"I did not get the numbers. It came down between Bob Hunter (D-McDowell) and Dan Blue (D-Wake). The race for speaker has generated into quite an extensive contest," Diamont said.

Hunter has flown across North Carolina in an effort to get support as well as personally lobbying the legislators in Raleigh and making "hundreds" of telephone calls, according to the local lawmaker.

"It's a full-time campaign. In (Blue's) case, he's been campaigning full-time for three months."

Diamont pointed out that neither Blue nor Hunter was up for re-election this year, which gave them more time to stump for the seat.

"I started late in the first place," the Pilot

Mountain resident said, "and I had to campaign for my own re-election. It put me at a tremendous disadvantage."

Reports have indicated that Diamont will support Blue in the battle. Should Blue win, he will be the state's first black House speaker since Reconstruction.

"I think either Blue or Hunter will carry on an open process," Diamont commented, saying that would continue the tradition established by Mavretic, who is backing Blue.

Meanwhile, Diamont said he has not ruled out seeking the seat at a future date.

"I will not rule out anything. I'm going to do the best I can to represent my district in the 1991 session and we'll go from there," he said.

Meanwhile, Mavretic said he was not bitter about being denied a second term as speaker.

"That's a small price to pay for opening up the North Carolina General Assembly," he said.

MA News

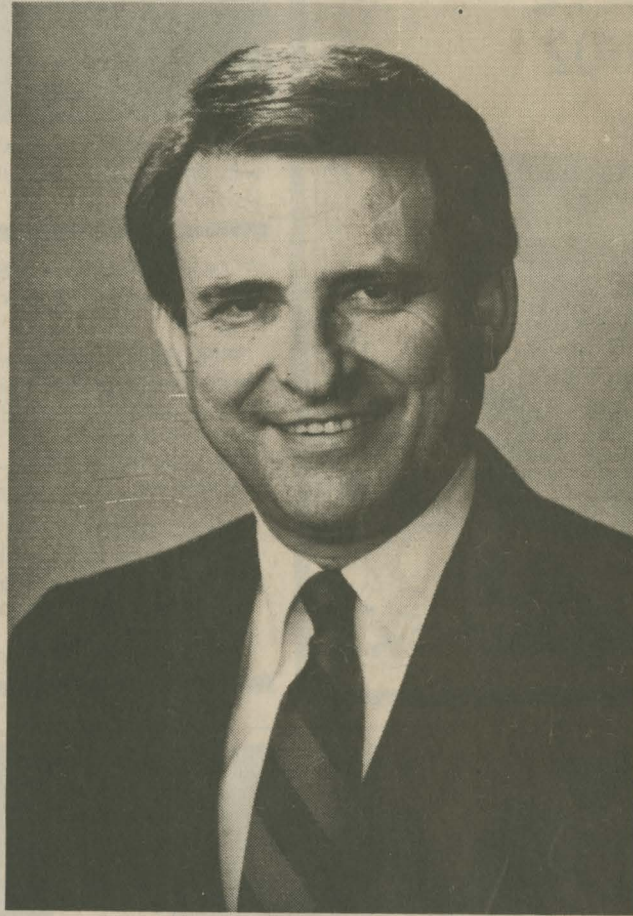
Friday Nov. 16, '90

VOTE

EXPERIENCED

CONCERNED

INVOLVED



**Watauga County
Businessman**

**Former Mayor
of Boone**

**Former Member
NC House**

WADE

WILMOTH

FOR NC HOUSE NOV. 6

"WE NEED TO GET A GRIP ON THE STATE BUDGET"

Paid for by Wade Wilmoth

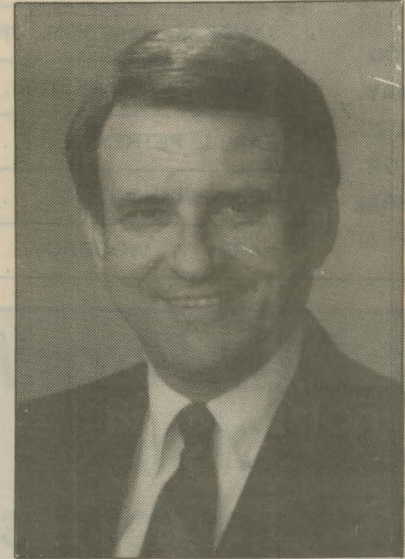
State House of Representatives



Dave Diamont



Judy Hunt



Wade Wilmoth

The three Democratic candidates for the State House of Representatives provide a wonderful range of interests and experience. As a team, they make a combination that is hard to beat. Dave Diamont is one of the real leaders in the House and, as a full-time teacher, is a true advocate for our children's education. Judy Hunt has a heart-felt interest in family matters, including care for our elderly, the infirm and the young. As a businessman, Wade Wilmoth would like to apply his abilities to solving the complex budget problems facing the state. This is a team that deserves your vote.

W.H.E.N. ENDORSES:

A E N O
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T

STATE LEGISLATURE

- David Diamont
- Judy Hunt
- Alexander Sands

COUNTY COMMISSION

- David Triplett
- James Wilcox
- Joseph Gaffney

**PLEASE VOTE
ON
NOVEMBER 6**

*These Candidates Received W.H.E.N.'s Support
for Their Commitment to Protect Watauga
County's Environment*

PAID FOR BY WATAUGANS HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT NOW. FOR
MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
SAUL CHASE (264-9269) OR BILL WILSON (963-5317)

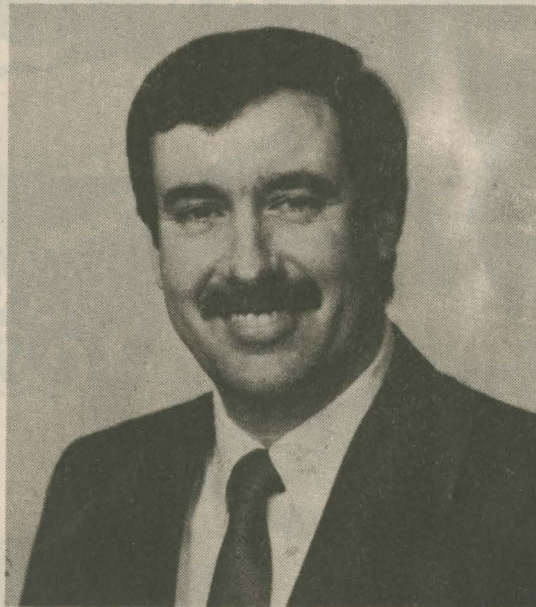
DAVID HUNTER
DIAMONT

N.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**40TH DISTRICT: ALLEGHANY, ASHE,
STOKES, SURRY AND WATAUGA COUNTIES**

NOVEMBER 6, 1990

Paid for by Citizens to elect David Diamont



Re-Elect

 **JUDY HUNT**

N.C. HOUSE
VOTE NOV. 6

- for education
- for environment
- for YOU



DAVID HUNTER

DIAMONT

N.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

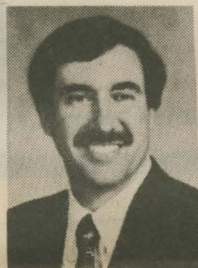
40TH DISTRICT: ALLEGHANY, ASHE,
STOKES, SURRY AND WATAUGA COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 6, 1990



In order to have a strong economic base we must go back to better education. Our students must be able to qualify for higher paying jobs so that the revenue will be available for the cost of education.

In obtaining a strong economic base we must make sure that we do not harm our environment. We must be keenly aware that a strong economic base is not possible unless we protect our environment at the same time."



David H. Diamont (Democrat)

Age: 44

Current employment and/or business interests: History teacher, East Surry High School, Pilot Mountain; legislator, 40th House District.

Previous (or current) public offices served and years: N.C. House of Representatives, eight terms (1975-present).

Q: DIAMONT If currently in office, what committees or subcommittees are you a member of?

Chairman, House Appropriations Committee (seven subcommittees, 71 members); Governmental Operations Committee, joint House and Senate committee; House Education Committee, subcommittee on elementary and secondary education.

Education: Wake Forest University, 1968; M.A., Appalachian State University, 1972.

Family: Wife, Debby; daughter, Ashley; son, David.

Q: Other than the budget shortfall, what do you see as the key issues facing the state?

A: "Providing leadership and resources for N.C.'s educational systems (public, community college and higher education) to provide the work force for the future. Reducing the dropout rate will require innovative programs locally and money from Raleigh for teachers, etc. Retraining our existing adult work force to meet job demands must be provided through the community college system. Higher education must provide teachers and technology for the future.

Secondly, we must protect our fragile environment. Disposal of hazardous waste is the obvious problem — but solid waste recycle and reduction could be accomplished by education. Over development causes great concerns which governments (local and state) must address!!"

Surry Voter Turnout At 62 Percent

By **NICOLE HATCH**
News Staff Writer

DOBSON — Long lines at various polling places throughout Surry County Tuesday are evidence that a high number of voters turned out to cast their ballots in the general election that included a heated sheriff's and senatorial race.

And Surry Elections Supervisor Bea Hall was not too far out on a limb when she predicted last week that 65 percent of the registered voters would be entering polling booths to cast ballots.

According to Hall, 62.1 percent of the 30,092 registered voters in Surry County cast ballots Tuesday. "For an off-year, that is unusual," Hall said, adding that 18,665 people voted Tuesday.

Hall said she did not know the exact reason for the high turnout. "I would say it is because of the sheriff's race and U.S. Senate because I heard more comments on those two races than any others," she said.

Shortly before midnight Tuesday, Hall had the unofficial total votes from the 28 precincts in the county, absentee votes and precinct transfer ballot totals posted on a chalkboard in the county commissioners meeting room in the courthouse here.

The meeting room was relatively empty by the time the final figures were posted even though it was standing room only and people had to gather outside the door earlier in the evening.

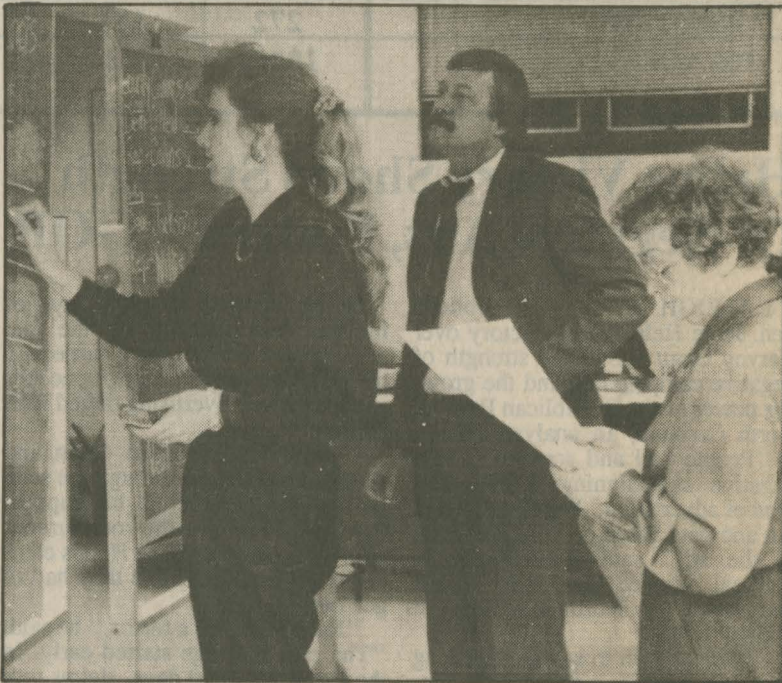
There is usually a large crowd gathered to see the election results

posted as the precinct registrars call in individual totals from each of the precincts. However, the results were slow in being posted and the crowd thinned out around 11 p.m.

Hall explained that the delay in the results being announced was because of the large number of candidates for which results had to be tallied, long

lines when the polling stations closed and problems with a copying machine. She noted that no serious problems with the polling sites were reported.

All of the total election results announced Tuesday night are considered unofficial until a canvass is held Thursday at 11 a.m.



Staff photo by Judy Dickerson

Becky Norman posts the final Surry County clerk of court totals Tuesday night as Elections Supervisor Bea Hall reads the vote tallies. Local attorney Mike Royster watches in the background.

Nov. 7, 1990

Election 1990

Diamont Heads List Of Incumbents In State House Race

By M.C. DAVIS
News Staff Writer

With the smoke from Election Day beginning to clear, some precincts were still reporting their totals this morning.

During telephone interviews, all the N.C. House of Representatives candidates could do was offer comments based on the information that had been supplied to them by this morning. And though the results failed to meet to everyone's satisfaction, most who were contacted said they would keep a watch for the results as they poured in.

As to the Surry County tally at presstime, David Diamont got 9,953 votes; Judy Hunt 8,414; Wade Wilmoth 8,190 votes; Jack Bailey 5,260; Paul Huffman 5,796; and Gene Wilson 6,036.

Diamont said from his office at East Surry High School today that he was pleased with the outcome of the race.

"I think the first thing that is to be decided is a rest period," he said. "I need to introduce myself to my children again. And priority number two is to thank all the people who voted for me, and try to continue building bridges of communications as soon as possible.

"I think it's now time to try and solve some of the issues this state faces. We need to stop thinking of ourselves as Democrats and Republicans, and start thinking of ourselves as North Carolinians," said the

incumbent Democrat from Pilot Mountain.

Bailey, a Republican running for one of the three 40th House District seats up for grabs, said he was disappointed by the results, but wished everyone who was voted into the General Assembly good luck. "That's all I have to say about it."

Bailey, a retired insurance company owner, added that his defeat could not be attributed to machine failures, as were reported in some counties. He said the machines in his region were operative.

Still, he has canceled plans of throwing his hat into the political ring again, after having lost in two straight state elections. "Looking into the future, I'm through running for political office. And I've said all the while that if I didn't make it this time, I would be through running," Bailey said during a telephone interview today.

Wilson, a Republican incumbent from Boone who has served multiple terms in the General Assembly, had few comments when approached this morning. "I don't have any comments," he said. "It didn't go too well for me, but I haven't gotten all the results yet. Our machines went very fine last night at the precincts. But the precinct transfer votes got mixed up here. And they have to be counted today," said the Watauga County resident.

"For now, my plans include a few days' rest. But I'll just leave it open, as to whether I enter a political race again."

On the other hand, Republican Paul Huffman was taken aback when he heard of Wilson's lack of enthusiasm on reported Election Day results. Though the numbers were less than kind for Huffman, he said they were more favorable toward Wilson, to the best of Huffman's information gathered as of presstime.

"Right now, we don't know if Wade Wilmoth or Gene Wilson won," Huffman added. "That's pretty tight. But Wilson may have lost his seat. We don't know that. "I'm probably going to finish fifth," Huffman predicted. "As of right now, we don't have all of the results. So I don't have anything to comment on."

Added the Boone resident, "At least right now, we still have a lot of transfer votes to come in. This is my home county. I have to hand it to the Democrats who have carried this district. It makes it difficult for the Republicans to win.

"That's not sour grapes. But there are some logistical factors to go against us. But they ran a hard race," Huffman commented.

He said U.S. Senate candidate Harvey Gantt reportedly had won Watauga County by more than 500 votes. That strength, along with strong Democratic Surry County backing, issued a blow to his party.

"At this time we're going to wait and see before we report what we're going to do," Huffman said in reference to his political future. He ran on a platform that

focused attention on literacy, stating that education would be a top priority for legislators if they wish to attract industry to the state. Another action he said he would approve was implementation of stricter drunk driving laws.

But many other candidates ran on those platform issues. And they were soundly defeated, said Democratic incumbent Judy Hunt during a telephone interview today. She said she was of the understanding that her spot in the General Assembly was secured.

"I have not heard anything this morning," Hunt said. "But I was the winner, I believe. And I thank the voters who saw fit to elect me. I look forward to doing the best work I can.

"I really don't know if the determining factor was the personality of the politicians, or the issues," she continued. "I was personally disappointed in some of the races I ran in — so I am not totally gleeful today. But I am looking forward to doing the work. And I know that many other candidates who didn't win had the same issues on their agenda that I have."

Hunt said the first order of business would be in getting with other House members to work on the budget. "That's very critical. We need leadership with vision and courage. The most important thing is getting our budget on solid footing. Issues on education and even the environment cost money."

Wilmoth could not be reached for comment.

Diamont receives award

Representative David H. Diamont (D) of Surry County, who represents the 40th District in the North Carolina General Assembly, has been selected as the 1990 recipient of the Dr. Ellen Winston Award for Outstanding Leadership by the State Council for Social Legislation. President of the Council, Pat Bullard, stated, "Rep. Diamont has been a champion, a leader in working for legislation that helps people. His efforts began during his first session in 1975 when he sought improvements in child welfare laws. He has continued to support legislation supporting the goals of our organization. During this last ses-

sion, he was instrumental in gaining additional funding for child protective services workers, an Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative, and funding for preschool children with special needs, among other initiatives."

The State Council for Social Legislation is a coalition of 34 organizations who support social legislation to improve the laws affecting the citizens of our state, especially children, the ill, the elderly, citizens with disabilities, minorities, and the poor.

The Dr. Ellen Winston Award will be presented to Rep. Diamont at the Annual Meeting of the State Council on November 9 at the Women's Club in Raleigh.

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Nov 7, 1990

Danbury Reporter

Danbury Reporter

North Carolina's Oldest Newsweekly

Established In 1872

Wednesday, November 7, 1990 - 6,203 Consecutive Issue

25¢

DAN - DIA450
DAVID DIAMONT
PO BOX 784
PILOT MOUNTAIN, NC 27041
** LB

Joyce Defeats Blalock in Race for County Sheriff

Stokes County voters chose Walnut Cove Police Chief Mike Joyce over incumbent Sheriff Tony Blalock at the polls yesterday. Joyce, a Republican, received a total of 7,761 votes and Blalock, a Democrat, received 6,778, according to unofficial tallies.

Joyce said in an interview Tuesday night: "I intend to be the type of sheriff I said I would be during the campaign."

Two Republican incumbent

Stokes County Commissioners, Buster Robertson and Willis Overby, were successful in their bid for reelection to the board. Democrat Bonnie Tuttle was elected to the third seat on the Board of Commissioners. Robertson was the biggest vote getter with 7,587 and Overby was second with 7,282. Tuttle received 6,844 votes. Democrat Bob Rierison was the fourth highest vote getter in the race for county com-

missioner with a total of 6,603. Republican Durwood Bennett received 6,592 votes and Democrat Dean Slate received 6,444.

Democrat Wic Southern defeated Republican Marilyn Parsons in the Clerk of Court's race. Southern's vote total was 7,651 and Parson's was 6,546.

Stokes County voters gave incumbent fifth District Congressman Steve Neal 8,669 votes to 5,921 votes for his challenger, Republican

Ken Bell.

Neal won the district according to early reports from the other counties.

Republican Jesse Helms who has served 18 years in the United States Senate, was the the overwhelming choice of Stokes voters with a total of 9,217 votes over his Democratic challenger Harvey Gantt's total of 4,825.

The voter turnout was "right out 70 percent" according to Election

Board member Franklin Sams.

In the race for three seats from the 40th State House district, Democrat incumbent David Diamont of Surry County was the tope vote getter in the county with 6,379 votes. Walnut Cove resident Jack Bailey, a Republican, was the number two choice for Stokes voters with a total of 5,997 votes and incumbent Republican Gene Wilson was third with 5,902 votes. Stokes tallies for the other three candidates for the

State House of Representatives were incumbent Democrat Judy Hunt, 5,757; Republican Paul Huffman, 5,526, and Democrat Wade Wilmoth, 5,257.

One Democrat incumbent and one Republican challenger were the choices of Stokes voters for the State Senate seats assigned to the 24th district. Republican Marshall Hall of King was the top Stokes vote getter with 7,335. Incumbent Sandy Sands received 6,673 votes. Incumbent Senator Bill Goldston, a Democrat, and Republican Lee McMillan tied with 6,255 votes each.

All tallies are unofficial until the official election canvass is conducted later this week.

THE SURRY COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
DOBSON, NORTH CAROLINA 27017

CARL R. BRITTAIN
DIRECTOR

November 14, 1990

Mr. David H. Diamont
Post Office Box 874
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

Dear Mr. Diamont:

The Surry County Board of Social Services in regular session on August 28, 1990 unanimously requested that Aid to Families With Dependent Children's (AFDC) equalization funds not be withheld from Surry County. Our recipient growth rate has severely taxed our local resources.

We can appreciate that counties who have been receiving these funds do not wish to lose them, but the funds were set-up for equalization of costs and now it is their turn to accept the burden.

We will appreciate any consideration that you can give in assuring us that full AFDC equalization funds will be available in July 1991.

Congratulations upon your election. We are expecting great things. Thanks!

Respectfully,



Carl R. Brittain
Director III

CRB/ka

ENTERTAINMENT

Comics	11C
Movies	11A
Reminders	3A
TV listings	3C

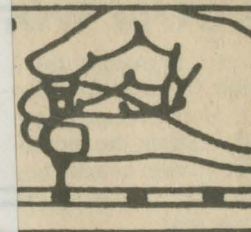
WHAT'S INSIDE?

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Obituaries	16A
Sports	12A

Participation problems, 12A

Precinct results

02/27/91
 DAVID H. DIAMONT
 P O BOX 784
 PILOT MTN, NC 27041



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3 Sections

S. Post. Ser. 668440



JESSE HELMS



CASS BALLENGER



DIAMONT



HUNT



WILMOTH



LYONS



RUSHER



BINGHAM



TRIPLETT



WILCOX



COFFEY



DEAL



HOLLAR



BINGHAM

Sen. Helms sweeps to victory

By PATRICIA CABE
Democrat Staff Writer
and AP Reports

North Carolina voters ushered Jesse Helms back to the U.S. Senate for a fourth term Tuesday with a decided victory over Democratic challenger Harvey Gantt.

Mr. Helms held a lead of 54 percent to 46 percent over Gantt with 92 percent of the state's precincts counted in unofficial returns. The senator held virtually the same lead throughout the night and an expected urban surge for Mr. Gantt,

the black former mayor of Charlotte, never materialized.

"Well, there is no joy in Mudville tonight," Mr. Helms told cheering supporters in Raleigh. "The mighty ultraliberal establishment, and the liberal politicians and editors and commentators and columnists have struck out again. ...

Mr. Helms claimed victory about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday, hours after hundreds of supporters began cheering and toasting his fourth term.

"I'm sorry I'm so late, but I've been sitting at home watching the grieving face of Dan Rather," Mr.

Helms told the crowd.

In Watauga County, however, unofficial returns showed it was Mr. Gantt who captured a majority of the votes.

As precinct returns came in Tuesday night, the lead flip-flopped between the two candidates, but with all 20 precincts reporting Mr. Gantt carried the county with 7,633 votes to 6,841 for Mr. Helms. Official returns will be available Thursday.

Mr. Helms, 69, a leading spokesman for the American right, argued in his campaign that government already is too large, is too intrusive

and needs to be cut back.

He campaigned full-time for only eight days after the late adjournment of Congress.

He accused Mr. Gantt of running a "secret campaign" aimed at getting black voters to the polls. Mr. Helms' television ads accused Mr. Gantt of using his minority status in 1985 to acquire a television station license that later was sold. The Federal Communications Commission approved that sale, which Mr. Gantt called "a private business deal that did not involve one dime of government money."

Some blasted Mr. Helms for ads

saying his opponent backed "racial quotas," and they criticized the state Republican Party for mailing postcards to Democratic voters, many of them black, that critics said were intended to scare them into not voting.

Reluctant to concede the race due to problems with voting machines causing delayed returns from some counties, Mr. Gantt told supporters in Raleigh to keep work-

— Please turn the page

61.4% voted: And here are your winners, county and state

By PATRICIA CABE
Democrat Staff Writer

Watauga County voters turned out in heavy numbers Tuesday to cast their ballots in a number of statewide and local elections.

According to unofficial returns,

15,063 or 61.4 percent of the county's 24,499 registered voters turned out at the polls.

All election results are unofficial until the vote is canvassed Thursday.

In local races, incumbent Republican Red Lyons handily

defeated Democrat Johnny Carroll by a margin of nearly 4,000 votes in the sheriff's race.

According to the returns, Sheriff Lyons received 9,168 votes to Mr. Carroll's 5,202.

Incumbents were the winners in the Watauga County Board of Com-

missioners races. Republicans David Triplett, James Coffey and James Wilcox surged ahead of Democratic challengers Ron Ensey, Joe Gaffney and Dennis Trivette to return for another term on the board.

In District 2, Mr. Coffey received

6,868 votes to Mr. Gaffney's 6,633. In District 3, Mr. Wilcox captured 7,053 votes to 6,461 for Mr. Trivette; and in District 4, Mr. Triplett received 7,098 votes to 6,456 for Mr. Ensey.

The clerk of court's race was — Please turn the page

Election results by precinct for Ashe races

	TOTAL	Chestnut Hill	Clifton	Creston	Elk	Grassy Creek	Helton	Horse Creek	Hurricane	Jefferson	Laurel	North Fork	Oblds	Old Fields	Peak Creek	Pine Swamp	Piney Creek	Pond Mountain	Walnut Hill	West Jefferson	Absentees
SHERIFF																					
(D) GENE GOSS	4,232	152	268	56	79	58	115	116	38	758	24	66	198	283	176	217	165	25	196	772	470
(R) JIM HARTLEY	5,728	78	509	255	119	91	186	182	63	746	161	352	206	415	206	319	375	69	260	885	251
REGISTER OF DEEDS																					
(D) SHIRLEY B WALLACE	5,759	203	392	84	96	86	141	152	48	1150	49	87	243	410	198	270	221	35	292	1095	507
(R) DAYNA PERRY PRICE	3,304	23	342	222	97	0	0	124	49	314	0	317	141	269	164	251	292	0	0	517	182
PRISON-YOUTH BOND																					
FOR	3,271	54	175	50	73	41	60	36	24	545	28	66	147	297	108	140	97	13	127	898	292
AGAINST	5,236	139	417	241	88	83	190	219	59	678	146	301	180	299	223	328	354	72	238	727	254
SOIL AND WATER SUPERVISOR																					
MILT HOUCK	4,490	116	284	95	134	63	104	88	40	748	55	130	195	441	139	249	190	19	159	873	368
BOWER A WALTERS	5,462	173	337	114	87	77	127	133	39	1098	67	128	238	376	224	275	253	36	241	1029	410
WRITE-IN	14	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	2
CORONER																					
EDWARD MILLER	6,448	187	422	142	131	94	150	160	56	1177	82	196	276	477	246	325	324	49	305	1195	454
WRITE-IN	74	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	21	8	0	14	0	0	0	15
STATE SENATE / 24TH DISTRICT																					
(D) WILLIAM D (BILL) GOLDSTON, JR	3,739	133	221	38	72	55	85	132	35	752	33	51	154	246	159	187	142	21	146	665	412
(D) A P (SANDY) SANDS, III	4,019	145	244	50	85	55	100	110	38	809	37	50	165	264	169	196	161	24	166	737	414
(R) MARSHALL HALL	4,242	42	391	235	95	68	161	123	53	375	37	321	152	303	169	274	313	63	186	659	222
(R) LEE Q MCMILLAN	5,702	86	459	262	124	96	186	146	59	703	140	328	244	423	212	321	364	68	298	905	278
STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES / 40TH DISTR 3511																					
* (D) DAVID HUNTER DIAMONT	4,544	164	279	50	87	71	113	132	38	928	32	56	209	317	183	219	167	22	209	822	446
(D) JUDY HUNT	4,758	161	309	61	98	71	118	137	31	947	44	63	214	310	187	227	191	26	222	885	456
(D) WADE WILMOTH	4,001	148	234	44	91	56	88	111	32	805	31	58	178	285	162	208	143	20	175	719	423
(R) JACK M BAILEY, SR	3,958	33	350	229	91	63	146	104	55	321	127	297	132	286	152	246	294	59	173	589	211
(R) PAUL F HUFFMAN	4,709	59	401	238	100	72	168	131	54	530	132	305	164	342	177	281	330	61	212	725	227
(R) GENE WILSON	4,949	58	428	258	110	75	171	138	61	471	140	345	188	372	184	308	339	64	216	788	235
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS																					
(D) RICHARD LEMLY	4,460	130	241	64	89	67	89	99	35	892	30	63	210	338	177	229	153	26	217	851	460
(D) JOHNNY MICHEAL NOBLETT	5,426	195	303	70	99	75	112	125	44	1099	35	77	244	435	213	250	193	32	258	1079	488
(D) KENNETH YOUNG	4,517	167	309	51	77	83	112	132	41	856	47	79	200	329	163	199	191	25	226	788	442
(R) ROYAL DENNY	4,488	57	454	288	97	68	158	171	57	488	158	307	157	301	164	258	248	71	178	745	248

Mavretic says he's still in race

Speaker says Democratic Party leadership failed to help Gantt

By VAN DENTON

Staff writer

Speaker Josephus L. Mavretic, whose ruling coalition with House Republicans was dealt a blow in Tuesday's election, warned Thursday that he should not be ruled out of the speaker's race for 1991 and launched a counterattack on the Democratic Party establishment.

At a news conference, Mr. Mavretic, a Democrat from Edge-

combe County, touted coalition government in the General Assembly and blamed state Democratic Party chairman E. Lawrence Davis and his staff for Democrat Harvey B. Gantt's loss in the U.S. Senate race.

"In Democratic countries around the world, coalitions are the norm, not the exception," Mr. Mavretic said. "In the United States, we are just beginning to get sophisticated enough to understand that coalitions not only can work but they are the best way to

go about governing."

Most ruling coalitions operate in parliaments that have more than two major political parties. Coalitions generally are necessary to create a majority.

In the wake of Tuesday's legislative elections, Mr. Mavretic and other candidates for the speaker's post have begun to scramble for support in a campaign that promises to be full of political intrigue and behind-the-scenes maneuvering.

Mr. Mavretic was to have met

with the remaining members of his coalition of dissident Democrats and minority-party Republicans in Fayetteville late Thursday.

Challenging Mr. Mavretic for the speaker's post are state Reps. Daniel T. Blue Jr., D-Wake; Bobby C. Hunter, D-McDowell; David H. Diamont, D-Surry; Joe Hackney, D-Orange; and John J. Hunt, D-Cleveland.

The outcome will determine

See MAVRETIC, page 2B



Josephus L. Mavretic

SECOND OPINION

As Next Campaign Begins, Democrats' Future Looks Like Their Past

As one election cycle concludes and another begins, the N.C. Democratic Party finds itself asking a question that has become familiar: Now what?

A victory by Harvey B. Gantt in the 1990 Senate race would have provided enormous symbolic and substantive answers in the Democrats' 10-year-old search for a way to perform at the polls as impressively as they do on the state's registration books. Despite a more than 2-1 edge among the state's 3.3 million registered voters, the Democrats have only won one governor's race and one Senate election in the seven held beginning in 1980. And no Democratic candidate has carried North Carolina in a presidential election since Jimmy Carter in 1976.

But don't stop the presses. Gantt lost.

The next statewide election, in 1992, will be in a presidential year — which has tended to be especially bad news for Democrats. While President Bush appears politically weakened now, there is no guarantee that he will remain so. There's also no way to know if the Democrats will once again nominate a presidential candidate who becomes a drag on the state ticket. Meanwhile, that state ticket will contain critical contests for the U.S. Senate and for governor.



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So far, the Democrats' future seems rooted in its past.

Sen. Terry Sanford is still active and capable, and is blessed with the genes of a family with a remarkable pattern of longevity. But he will be 75 if, as expected, he seeks re-election in 1992, and some voters who were in college when Sanford was elected governor in 1960 will have grandchildren the next time his name appears on a ballot.

The 1986 election proved that Sanford can be an aggressive campaigner who is not easily rattled by his opposition. His next opponent, however, could provide tougher competition than did interim Sen. James T. Broyhill's mistake-filled campaign four years ago. The possibilities in-

clude Lt. Gov. James C. Gardner, U.S. Reps. J. Alex McMillan III and T. Cass Ballenger and state House Minority Leader Johnathan L. Rhyne Jr.

With two-term Republican Gov. James G. Martin ineligible to run again, the governor's race will be open. The leading Democratic candidate appears to be former Gov. James B. Hunt Jr., who hasn't even publicly confirmed that he is planning to run. Hunt, who will be 55 in 1992, is a relative babe compared with Sanford — but remember that a generation will have come to maturity since Hunt won his first statewide race, for lieutenant governor, in 1972.

Attorney General Lacy H. Thornburg is the only acknowledged (if not announced) candidate for governor, and Auditor Edward Renfrow wants to run. Both are familiar figures on North Carolina ballots. Don't be surprised if Gantt's name also surfaces in the coming months. Possible Republican candidates include Gardner, Ballenger, Rhyne and U.S. Rep. J. Howard Coble.

OK, so the Democrats can stress experience. And exit polls from the past two Senate campaigns (Sanford's win over Broyhill in 1986 and Jesse Helms' victory over Gantt this month) suggest that the Democrats have an edge among younger voters. Gantt, for example, won approxi-

mately 54 percent of the ballots cast by voters aged 18-29; 47 percent among those 30-44 years old; 42 percent among those aged 45-59; and 41 percent from voters 60 years old and over, according to this year's exit poll.

The greatest challenge for Democrats is not necessarily appealing to youth, but keeping the party youthful. The adoption of a constitutional amendment allowing governors to succeed themselves in 1977 has been overwhelmingly good for the state, but it has had the one negative fallout of slowing the advancement of bright young politicians (exacerbated by the corresponding tendency of legislative leaders to stay in their positions longer).

Hunt is probably the most attractive candidate the Democrats can field for governor, but some party activists still hold the feeling that he subordinated the party's organization to his own during his years in office. Thornburg has already given signals that he would seek to exploit that sentiment in a primary against Hunt. In the Senate race, Sanford did a better job than Hunt of coordinating his campaign with the rest of the party's ticket in '86, but he and his advisers — and not party headquarters — kept control.

The Democratic Party as an institution is

too big and diverse, and its central operations are too weak and underfinanced, to ever regain the power it once enjoyed. But the party is not lacking a talented cadre of fresh-faced candidates who could wage strong campaigns for statewide office in the future.

Gantt and Michael F. Easley, the Southport district attorney who lost in this Senate primary runoff, had impressive, if ultimately unsuccessful, debuts. U.S. Reps. David E. Price of Chapel Hill and H. Martin Lancaster of Goldsboro would be good nominees for either governor or a U.S. Senate seat.

And the party's farm system in the General Assembly includes such hot prospects as Sens. Ted Kaplan of Lewisville, Marc Basnight of Manteo, and George Daniel of Yanceyville; and Reps. Daniel T. Blue of Raleigh (the probable next speaker of the House); Dennis A. Wicker of Sanford; Roy A. Cooper III of Rocky Mount and David T. Diamond of Pilot Mountain.

Sanford and Hunt may well have a winning season or two left. But if the Democrats' future isn't exactly now, it will get here soon enough.

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