

40TH N.C. HOUSE DISTRICT

The Democratic incumbents were leading their Republican challengers last night in the race for the three seats in the 40th House District — a race between six candidates with legislative experience.

With 63 of 94 precincts reporting in unofficial returns, Rep. Judy Hunt had 22,919 votes, Rep. David Diamont had 22,613 and Rep. Wade Wilmoth had 22,056. For the Republicans, Gene Wilson had 21,506 votes, Bill Hiatt had 20,899 and Marshall Hall had 19,147.

All seven of the precincts in Alleghany County had reported, seven of 19 in Ashe, 12 of 20 in Stokes, 20 of 28 in Surry and 17 of 20 in Watauga.

Hunt, 43, of Blowing Rock is seeking a fourth term. She and her husband, Hanse Kohler, own a real-estate business in Blowing Rock, but Hunt said she is not actively involved in the business. She was appointed to the Watauga County Board of Commissioners in 1983 but was defeated when she ran for election.

Diamont, 46, of Pilot Mountain, is seeking a tenth term. He is the co-chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. He is a teacher.

Wilmoth, 57, of Boone owns a realty company. He was elected to the House in 1986, was defeated in 1988 and was elected again in 1990. He was elected to one term on the Boone City Council and two terms as mayor.

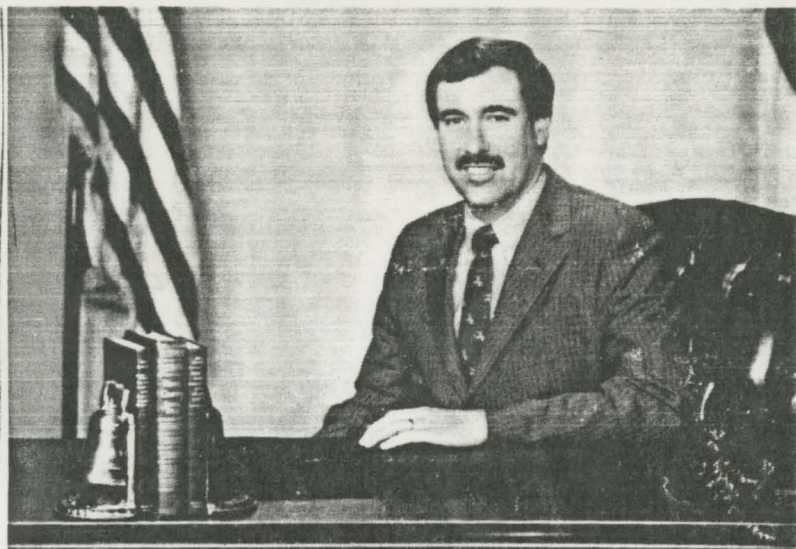
Hall, 70, of King, Rt. 5, is retired from the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles, where he was a hearing officer. He was elected to the House twice and ran unsuccessfully for the House five times and for the N.C. Senate once.

Hiatt, 60, of Mount Airy was the State Commissioner of Motor Vehicles from 1985-91 and taught school 29 years. He is now a principal stockholder in a construction company. He was elected to two terms in the N.C. House and ran unsuccessfully for the House one time. He ran unsuccessfully for lieutenant governor in 1976 and 1984.

Wilson, 63, of Boone a retired restaurateur, was appointed to the House in 1986 to fill an unexpired term and was elected in 1988. He was defeated in 1990. He served four terms on the Watauga County Board of Commissioners.

Diamont said that his priorities include public education, funding for construction at community colleges and universities, and programs to reduce child abuse, child-abuse and infant mortality. Hall said the state needs to cut spending and give larger pay raises to teachers. Hiatt said that budget reform is needed.

Hiatt, Hall and Wilmoth said the bureaucracy in education should be cut and more money spent in the classroom. Hunt said her priorities include education, trying to make health care more affordable and protecting the environment. Wilmoth said he was concerned about protecting the environment. Wilson said that more technical and trade courses should be offered in high schools and community colleges. He said the state should protect farmland.



DAVID HUNTER DIAMONT

"A unique combination - a professional educator with distinguished legislative experience!"

- David Hunter Diamont** • 46 years old, married to the former Debby Severs
• daughter, Ashley Danielle, and sons, David James and William Hunter
- Hometown Address** • P. O. Box 784, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina 27041
- Legislative Office** • Legislative Office Building, Room 635, Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

EDUCATION

- Frank L. Ashley High School, Gastonia, 1964
B. A. Degree, Wake Forest University, 1968
M. A. Degree, Appalachian State University, 1972

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The only active classroom teacher serving in the North Carolina General Assembly

- History Teacher and Head Football Coach at Mount Airy Senior High School, 1991 - present
- History Teacher and Head Football Coach at East Surry High School, 1977-89
- History Teacher, Football and Basketball Assistant Coach, Mount Airy Senior High School, 1968-71, 1972-77

LEGISLATIVE EXPERIENCE

- North Carolina House of Representatives
Elected 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, and 1992
- Chairman of House Appropriations Committee - 1989 and 1990
Co Chairman - 1991 and 1992
- Member of House Education Committee - 1977, 1983, 1985, 1987, 1989, and 1993
Vice Chairman - 1985, 1987, and 1993
- Member of House Higher Education Committee - 1977
Vice Chairman - 1987
- Chairman of House Appropriations Committee on Human Resources - 1979, 1983, and 1987
- Vice Chairman of House Committee on Banks and Thrift Institutions - 1985 and 1987
- Member of House Subcommittee on Elementary and Secondary Education - 1989 and 1991
- Member of House Ethics Committee - 1991 and 1993 ; Vice Chairman - 1991

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- North Carolina High School Coaches Association, Board of Directors 1985-89
- North Carolina Association of Educators
- National Education Association

RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION

- Member of First United Methodist Church, Pilot Mountain, North Carolina
- Lay Leader, 1986 - 87

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

- Young People for Sanford 1972, Surry County
- Surry County Young Democrats Club - President 1973
- Father: David E. Diamont (deceased) taught in Tabor City, Statesville, Greensboro, and Pilot Mountain during his 35 years of public school teaching



North Carolina General Assembly
House of Representatives
State Legislative Building
Raleigh 27611

REP. DAVID H. DIAMONT
40TH DISTRICT

HOME ADDRESS: P. O. Box 784
PILOT MT., N. C. 27041
TEL.: 919-368-4591

OFFICE ADDRESS: LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 635
TEL.: 919-733-5829

November 10, 1992

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
CO-CHAIRMAN
ENVIRONMENT: SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOLID WASTE
ETHICS
JUDICIARY I
CONGRESSIONAL REDISTRICTING

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I would like to take this opportunity to endorse the Ashe County Civic Center for a grant which would help facilitate Phase II of this worthwhile project. Phase I consisted of building the actual building and now it is time to complete the project by finishing the inside with Phase II.

Ashe County has a very active arts council who help sponsor residency artist programs at various schools. Its annual Spring Fest is an innovative exhibit and hands-on experience for young people as well as the Very Special Arts Festival which provides a unique opportunity for disabled young people. The citizens of this community would benefit from the Civic Center's completion. Outside of church sanctuaries, I know of no auditorium facility available to the community in this county and one is greatly needed.

I completely support Ashe County's endeavor to complete the Civic Center for its citizens and I strongly recommend this project for the needed grant.

Sincerely,

David H. Diamont
Representative

DHD:nwg



Voters Send Incumbents Back To House, Senate

Rep. Judy Hunt Leads The Pack

By NANCY DAMRON
Staff Writer

The three Democratic incumbents held onto their seats in the 40th House District races, reflecting what all believe was a national voting trend.

Judy Hunt of Blowing Rock led the field of six candidates, gathering a total of 36,632 votes, or 18 percent, in the five-county district. The district includes Surry, Stokes, Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties.



Hunt

She was followed by David Diamont of Pilot Mountain, who had a total of 36,452 votes, representing 18 percent of the ballots cast. Wade Wilmoth of Boone finished third with 35,078 votes, or 17 percent.

The three Republican candidates — Gene Wilson of Boone, Bill Hiatt of Mount Airy and Marshall Hall of King — finished fourth, fifth and sixth, respectively. Wilson tallied 33,711 votes (16 percent), while Hiatt had 33,676 (33 percent). Hall had 30,595 (15 percent).

Locally, Diamont led the contingent, capturing 12,645 Surry votes. Wilmoth, a native of Dobson, had 11,767 votes and Hunt had 11,442. Hiatt placed fourth with 11,354, while Wilson had 9,650 and Hall, 9,547.

"I'm elated. I'm exhausted," Diamont, who captured his ninth two-year term in the House, said today.

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The senior member of the group said he could not point to any one issue that played a role in the win.

"I think it's interesting to note that every candidate has served in the legislature and it gave the voters a very tough choice. I think the candidates were all very deserving and all campaigned hard and I'm delighted to have won," said



Diamont

Diamont, 46, a teacher and head football coach at Mount Airy High School.

"It's a very humbling experience to go through a campaign and to talk with a lot of people and listen to their feelings and to have them support you."

Among Diamont's top issues in the campaign were education, children's issues and overcrowded prisons.

"I'm just honored that the people seem to be happy with what I have been doing for them and the work I hope to do in the future," a sleepy Hunt said today in a telephone interview from her home.

Hunt, 43, who landed her fourth term, said she plans to make health care a priority and looks forward to working with a new leadership team at both the state and national level.

"I think Jim Hunt is going to change North Carolina and Bill Clinton will change America and I'm very excited to help them do it," the Realtor said.

Wilmoth, 57, also a real estate agent, said he was pleased with his win and credited Surry voters with making a difference.

"I'm delighted that the results are that I've won. We worked hard and again, the people in Surry County remembered a home county fellow," Wilmoth said.

Among his top campaign issues were education, the economy and the environment.

The Republicans chalked up the loss to a strong showing of support, both nationally and at the state level, for the Democrats.

Wilson, 63, who served terms in the House in 1986 and 1988, said simply, "I lost.

"It was a landslide victory for the opposite party. I ran a good race and I done good," said the Boone restaurant owner who focused his campaign on the budget, education and the environment.

"I think it's obvious it was part of the trend," Hiatt, 60, the former state Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, said today. "The people have spoken."

Hiatt, who served in the state House in 1973-74 and 1981-82, campaigned on a platform focusing on the economy and budget, crime control and education.

Hall, who served in the House in the 1980s, was unable to be reached for comment.