

ELECTION REPORT GENERAL ELECTION NOV. 8, 1966--GRENADA COUNTY

There were 3131 Negroes eligible to vote in this election out of a potential voting population of 5373 (Justice Dept. figures). There are approximately 5990 whites of voting age in Grenada County, we have no figures on how many are registered.

The polls opened at 7:00 A.M. and closed at 6:00 P.M. On the ballot were FOR SENATOR-James Eastland, Prontiss Walker, Clifton Whitby; FOR CONGRESS (2nd Dist.) Whitten, White; There were three judgeships unopposed; There were two amendments one to give the legislature power to consolidate candidates (an attempt to eliminate Negro voting majorities) and one to allow the State Auditor to succeed himself. The main races as far as the movement was concerned were the Senate race, with F.D.P. candidate Clifton Whitley and the Consolidation amendment. Following is a break down of the voting in the County, for the two main races.

Precinct	Eastland	Walker	Whitley	For amendment	Against
1	92	47	234	90	153
1-A	96	26	236	95	215
1-B	66	17	216	48	39
2	130	45	64	157	65
2-A	189	36	73	133	75
3	167	53	35	139	47
3-A	246	49	40	197	63
4	133	55	67	151	75
4-A	131	50	53	146	67
5	133	34	34	111	39
5-A	156	44	24	136	33
6	266	94	1	211	60
Pea Ridge	39	12	0	24	13
spears	12	7	1	3	8
Kirkman	56	29	7	40	26
Oxberry	38	6	15	19	19
Hardy	48	23	6	33	22
Gore					
Springs	120	21	13	48	43
Mt. Nebo	37	4	0	13	8
Elliot	111	33	1	81	24
Geeslin	127	44	40	90	51
Futtyville	140	34	11	92	36
Holcomb	219	52	22	105	65
Providence	24	15	0	1	21
Tie Plant	139	42	99	130	111
TOTALS	3070	872	1302*	2293	1443

*in the primary election last June between Eastland and Whitley among

other Whitley got only 37 votes, this time, 5 months later he got 1302.

The election commission added a number of new voting precincts (all the lettered ones) this election. They said it was because of the increase in registration. They also appointed at least 3 Negroes to be poll officials (all in precincts 1, 1-A, 1-B; which is the heaviest Negro precinct). These Negroes had not had anything to do with the movement. The movement did not submit any list of poll officials.

3 Negroes came to the movement headquarter (Bellflowers church) on election day with complaints that they had been legally registered but not allowed to vote. They are C.W. "Pal" Carver, 724 Pearl st. Grenada; Redmon S. Perman, Star Rt. 1 box 66; and Tom Henry Ross Circle 55 ranch. Two of these were told to see certain people at the Courthouse. One was given a note by the Federal Registrars to take back to his polling place (all of them talked to the Fed. Registrars). We don't know at this time whether the 3 were finally allowed to vote or not. Other people went directly to the Fed. Registrars without stopping at the church.

One man-Frank Jones P.O. Box 372 Grenada-reported that a poll official (one of the Negroes we think but are not sure) marked an "X" for S.B. Wise (one of the ~~running~~ Congressional candidates) when he brought her the ballot to ask her a question. He later tried to erase the mark.

Rosa Williams was told that she had to vote for congressman.

There were reports from different people, Mr. Reese, Mrs Springfield, that Negro voter in Oxberry and Tie Plant were being threatened. The Fed. Registrars investigated, we don't know with what results. This if true would be the most serious case of discrimination in Grenada. An F.B.I. agent when questioned about his investigation of the incident however, said it was "Just a misunderstanding" whatever that means.

The main reason that only a third of the registered voters were turned out are 1-lack of transportation to the rural area, 2-lack of transportation on election day 3-lack of time due to Court cases, school boycott, mass arrests, etc. 4-lack of campaign organization.

Submitted
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cc
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