

COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS, JACKSON, MISS. 1017 LYNCH ST.  
PRESS RELEASE  
FREEDOM VOTE TALLIES  
NOV. 4, 1964

For the first time in the history of Mississippi, Negroes cast more votes than whites in the election of a Democratic presidential candidate.

The total votes cast for President Lyndon B. Johnson in the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party "mock election" was 63, 839 compared to 52,538 cast for him by registered voters yesterday (Tuesday).

Senator Barry Goldwater received 17 votes from MFDP voters.

At least 90 per cent of the registered Negro voters who went to the polls yesterday voted for Johnson. Assuming that 20,000 of the 26,000 registered Negro voters in the state cast ballots, then 18,000 Negroes voted for Johnson. With these 18,000 votes subtracted from the 52,538 votes he received from both whites and Negroes, it follows that twice as many Negroes voted for Johnson. This is true even when you discount those votes cast by Negroes in both the MFDP and the regular election.

In 35 counties FDP votes for Johnson outnumbered those cast by registered voters.

Although Johnson lost every county in the state he would have won at least one county, Benton, if MFDP votes were added to those cast for him in the regular election. For example, there were 965 votes for Goldwater against 236 for Johnson in Benton. Combine the 236 with the 7555 votes Johnson received from the MFDP voters Monday, and he would have carried the county by 45 votes.

FDP ballots were cast in 53 of the state's 82 counties while "underground ballots" were mailed in from almost every county in the state. The underground ballots were sent in from areas where it was considered dangerous to set up polling places. Some Negro citizens enclosed notes with their ballots explaining that they didn't leave a return address on their envelopes because they feared reprisals by whites. Over 119 arrests and 63 other incidents of voting harassment (not counting straight racial incidents) between October 18 and November 2, lent a note of terror to the campaign.

Aaron Henry, MFDP candidate for the Senate won 58, 023 votes against 139 for his opponent Senator John Stennis.

The three FDP candidates for Congress also won over their opponents. Here are their totals:

2nd district- Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, 24,960 votes, Rep. Jamie Whitten, 59

4th district- Mrs. Annie Devine, 5209 votes, Rep. Arthur Minstead, 4

5th district- Mrs. Victoria Gray, 10876 votes, Rep. William Colmer, 16