



## Election Officials Prepare For Poor Turnout

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — With only one statewide race on the ballot Tuesday, election officials are bracing themselves for what could be one of the most dismal turnouts in recent history.

Floridians will be electing a Supreme Court justice in the only statewide race in the runoff primary. In addition, there will be three congressional runoffs, two state Senate contests and 24 state House runoffs.

State Elections Director Mary Singleton, who hoped for a 65 per cent turnout in the first primary before learning that only 31 per cent of the registered voters participated, refused to make any prediction for the runoff.

"We're just going to hope for the best," she said.

But some county election officials around the state, aware that the second primary historically has attracted of much smaller showings, are predicting that the turnout could fall to 15 per cent of the state's 3.86 million voters.

In the Supreme Court race, former state Sen. Fred Karl of Tallahassee is running against former Circuit Judge Charles Holley of Naples. At stake is the seat of retiring Justice B.K. Roberts.

In perhaps the hottest race of the runoff, Leon County Commissioner Travis Marchant is trying to end the 20-year

legislative career of Senate President Dempsey Barron, D-Panama City.

Barron, who had finished first in every election of his career, trailed Marchant in the first primary, but Marchant's chances were hurt last week by newspaper stories raising questions about a land transaction with a Tallahassee developer.

In the only other Senate race, state Rep. Sherrill "Pete" Skinner, D-Lake City, is in a runoff with Terry Putnal of Mayo for the seat of Sen. Bob Saunders, who is stepping down.

The 24 House races include seven contests in which incumbents have been forced into runoffs by challengers.

Five of those races involve Dade County Democrats who have been branded as ineffective by their opponents.

Two of the veteran Miami Democrats being challenged are Rep. Joe Lang Kershaw, the first black elected to the legislature since Reconstruction, and Walter Sackett, a perennial proponent of a "death with dignity bill."

In the congressional contests, Jo Ann Saunders and Miller Newton are fighting for the Democratic nomination to oppose first-term Republican Richard Kelly of New Port Richey.

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