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## Hieber, Waymire picked in light vote



**GEORGE HIEBER**  
... toppled Caroline.

By CHRISTOPHER CUBBISON  
St. Petersburg Times Staff Writer

Choosing from a sea of new political faces, a trickle of Pinellas County voters Tuesday determined the Nov. 2 general election ballot with a predictably disappointing primary runoff turnout.

Reacting with a dull thud to their fourth major county election in 1978, six of every seven registered Pinellas voters avoided the polls despite flawlessly sunny skies. Including absentee votes, elections officials put the turnout at about 15 per cent.

**THERE WAS ONLY ONE** incumbent on the Pinellas ballot and, in a mild surprise, he survived a tough fight.

State Rep. George Hieber beat back a challenge from former St. Petersburg city councilman Peter J. Caroline to reverse the Sept. 7 primary outcome that found him trailing Caroline.

Hieber, bidding for a second term, will face Democrat Jana Silverberg Nov. 2.

In the 5th U.S. Congressional District, which includes northern Pinellas, Orlando businesswoman JoAnn Saunders defeated Pasco County Circuit Court Clerk Miller Newton for the Democratic nomination, and will face U.S. Rep. Richard Kelly, R-Port Richey. Kelly defeated Mrs. Saunders in 1974.

While the voter turnout was poor, the technological

side to this election was a smashing success, Pinellas elections officials reported.

**ON PRIMARY NIGHT** three weeks earlier, lightning damage hamstringing the county's main computer, delaying final results until almost midnight. Vote-counting had to be switched to a mini-computer in Elections Supervisor Jeanne Khoyi Nelson's office.

Tuesday's runoff found the front-line electronic hardware purring contentedly, with an ebullient Mrs. Nelson saying the vote tabulation may have been the fastest ever in a Florida election.

The 1,804 absentee ballots, 1,074 of them Republican, will not be enough to affect any race when they are counted today.

**IN THE VIGOROUS** battle for sheriff, soft-spoken political novice Ray V. Waymire Jr., a 21-year-veteran of the St. Petersburg Police Department, trounced St. Petersburg Beach Police Chief G. E. "Gil" Thivener for the GOP nomination. Waymire faces Democratic Sheriff Bill Roberts in November.

In another key Pinellas race, Clearwater businessman John Chesnut Jr. rode hearty spending and a catchy campaign message ("You're the chef; place a seasoned Chesnut on the County Commission") to the Republican nomination for the commission seat now held by Democrat Cliff Stephens. Chesnut swamped former Belleair town manager Frank Donnell.



**RAY WAYMIRE**  
... beat Thivener.

See ELECTION, 2-B

### How Pinellas voted

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS

\* with 269 out of 269 precincts reporting.

**U.S. HOUSE (5th District)**

Miller Newton (D)	903
JoAnn Saunders (D)	1,296