

# Evening Independent

St. Petersburg, Florida 10 Cents Wednesday, September 29, 1976

## Most Voters Ignore County Runoff Election

JANE BAUMANN  
Staff Writer

Pinellas County voters decided to do things other than casting ballots yesterday, resulting in a scant 14 per cent turnout in the primary runoff election.

Elections officials said today unofficial tallies show only 50,323 of the county's 358,196 registered voters went to the polls to determine the Nov. 2 general election ballot. The canvassing board was to meet at 9 a.m. today to verify votes.

Still to be counted are 2,068 absentee ballots — 1,199 Republicans, 842 Democrats and 27 independents. Elections officials said probably 149 ballots will be rejected, leaving 1,919 with 1,131 Republicans, 762 Democrats and 26 independents. The absentee ballots won't affect the outcome of any races.

The GOP nomination was contested in six races and one Democrat race and two non-partisan judgeships were on the ballot.

Unofficial results show:

State Rep. George F. Hieber II, the only incumbent on the ballot, topped challenger Peter Caroline, former St. Petersburg city councilman, in the District 58 GOP nomination battle. Hieber won 9,018 votes to Caroline's 7,777.

Charles J. Kaniss won the GOP nomination in the supervisor of elections race, defeating Jeanne Olsen by a 17,467 to 11,990 vote. Kaniss, marketing chief for the St. Petersburg City Transit Department, will face Democrat Myrtle Smith in the general election.

In the only county judgeship runoff, Group 10, Seminole attorney Karl Grube beat Herbert Langford Jr., Oldsmar's municipal judge. Grube received 22,729 votes to Langford's 19,471.

In the 5th U.S. Congressional District, which includes northern Pinellas, Orlando businesswoman JoAnn Saunders defeated Pasco County Circuit Clerk Miller Newton for the Democratic nomination. Mrs. Saunders won 1,296 Pinellas votes while Newton garnered 903. Unofficial votes from all eight counties in the district show Mrs. Newton won 29,841 to Newton's 20,892. Mrs. Saunders will oppose Republican incumbent Richard Kelly in the general election.

Former state senator Frederick B. Karl was elected to the Group 1 State Supreme Court seat, beating Naples attorney Charles R. Holley. Karl was special counsel to the House impeachment committee that last year considered charges against three Supreme Court justices. In Pinellas, Karl won 25,126 votes to

served by the department voted 4,503 to 1,501 to create the district which will tax them about \$1.30 per \$1,000 in taxable property.

It means an end to the annual subscription drives which have financed the department since its founding. Residents within the City of Seminole receive fire protection under a contract between the city and the department which the city pays from property tax revenues.

"We now know what we have to work with. Now we can establish a sinking fund, replace some outdated equipment and it will enable us to continue our rescue service," said Fire Chief Paul Hoffman last night at a celebration at the main fire station. "The biggest benefit to the people will be in product (service) and we will be able to pay as we go."

By a 114 to 69 vote, residents in Precinct 14C approved an annexation proposal that includes them in the incorporated boundaries of Pinellas Park. City voters also approved the annexation by 1,437 to 217. The area annexed includes some industrial property southeast of 49th Street and 102nd Avenue N and The Lakes residential development.

In addition to the various races, nine constitutional amendments will be on the Nov. 2 general election ballot.

### Pinellas Runoff Voting Results

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS  
with 269 out of 269 precincts reporting.

<b>U.S. HOUSE (5th District)</b>	
Miller Newton (D)	903
JoAnn Saunders (D)	1,296
<b>STATE HOUSE (District 58)</b>	
Peter Caroline (R)	7,777
George Hieber II (R)	9,018
<b>STATE HOUSE (District 59)</b>	
Dennis L. Jones (R)	7,471
Robert E. Melby (R)	9,024
<b>STATE HOUSE (District 60)</b>	
Esther M. Amor (R)	7,145
T. M. "Tom" Woodruff (R)	9,245
<b>COUNTY COMMISSION (District 3)</b>	
John Chesnut Jr. (R)	20,348
Francis S. "Frank" Donnell (R)	9,658
<b>SHERIFF</b>	
G. E. "Gill" Thivener (R)	12,130
Ray. S. Waymire Jr. (R)	18,238
<b>SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS</b>	
Charles Kaniss (R)	17,467
Jeanne Olsen (R)	11,990
<b>SUPREME COURT (Group 1)</b>	
Charles R. Holley	16,511
Frederick B. Karl	25,126

traces and one Democrat race and two non-partisan judgeships were on the ballot.

Unofficials results show:

State Rep. George F. Hieber II, the only incumbent on the ballot, topped challenger Peter Caroline, former St. Petersburg city councilman, in the District 58 GOP nomination battle. Hieber won 9,018 votes to Caroline's 7,777. Seeking his second term, Hieber will face Democrat Jane Silverberg in November.

In the District 59 State House race, St. Petersburg optometrist Robert E. Melby defeated chiropractor Dennis L. Jones for the GOP nomination by a vote of 9,024 to 7,471. Melby will oppose Democrat Don Poindexter in the general election.

T. M. "Tom" Woodruff, a St. Petersburg attorney and Pinellas Park municipal judge, beat former Seminole city council member Esther M. Amor for the GOP nomination to District 60 State House. Receiving 9,245 votes to Ms. Amor's 7,145, Woodruff will face Democrat Geneva F. Flaherty in November.

In the District 3 County Commission race, John Chesnut Jr. roundly defeated Francis (Frank) Donnell for the GOP nomination by a vote of 20,348 to 9,658. Chesnut, a Clearwater insurance executive, will oppose Democratic incumbent Cliff Stephens in the general election.

In perhaps the most hotly contested race, Ray V. Waymire, active in St. Petersburg police service for 21 years, beat St. Petersburg Beach Police Chief G. E. "Gil" Thivener for the GOP nomination for sheriff. Waymire won 18,238 votes to Thivener's 12,130, and will face Democratic incumbent William T. Roberts in November.

general election.

Former state senator Frederick B. Karl was elected to the Group 1 State Supreme Court seat, beating Naples attorney Charles R. Holley. Karl was special counsel to the House impeachment committee that last year considered charges against three Supreme Court justices. In Pinellas, Karl won 25,126 votes to Holley's 16,511. Statwide results were not available this morning.

A campaign by the Seminole Volunteer Fire Department paid off with a 3-1 vote in favor of creating a taxing district for the department. Voters in the unincorporated areas

## Candidates' Calendar

A coffee for Donald Chamberlin, Democratic candidate for District 19 Florida Senate seat, will be held at 8 tonight at the home of Mary Brooks, 2205 Belleair Road, Apt. A-9, Clearwater.

A coffee for Jane Silverberg, Democratic candidate for District 58 Florida House seat, will be held at 9:30 a.m. Thursday at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Dudley DeGroot, 1801 Armistead Place S.

Republicans have opened a new campaign headquarters in the Tyrone area of St. Petersburg at 66th Street and 34th Avenue N. The headquarters are on the second floor of the Marie Powell Realtor building. Headquarters coordinator is Jean Passafaro.

Pinellas Park. City voters also approved the annexation by 1,437 to 217. The area annexed includes some industrial property southeast of 49th Street and 102nd Avenue N and The Lakes residential development.

In addition to the various races, nine constitutional amendments will be on the Nov. 2 general election ballot.

Incumbents who won another term without any opposition (except for possible write-in candidates) include State Rep. Curtis Kiser, R-Dunedin; State Rep. Betty Easley, R-Largo; Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney James T. Russell and Public Defender Robert B. Jagger.

Others who were unopposed are county judges Robert J. Shingler Jr., Maynard F. Swanson Jr., R. Grable Stoutamire, Burton Easton, Catherine M. Harlan and Howard H. Wittington. Unopposed circuit judges are Michael Athanason, Edward Bergstrom and Philip Federic.

### SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Charles Kaniss (R)	17,467
Jeanne Olsen (R)	11,990

### SUPREME COURT (Group 1)

Charles R. Holley	16,511
Frederick B. Karl	25,126

### COUNTY JUDGE (Group 10)

Karl B. Grube	22,729
Herbert E. Langford Jr.	19,471

Totals do not include 2,068 absentee ballots (1,199 Republicans, 842 Democrats and 27 independents). Elections officials said today that at least 149 absentee ballots will be rejected by the canvassing board, leaving a total of 1,919 (1,131 Republicans, 762 Democrats and 26 independents).

# Was The Second Primary Worth It?

## JOE CHILDS

Staff Writer

Well, was it worth it?

Was yesterday's primary runoff election deserving of the time, effort and taxpayers' dollars funneled into it?

The election was the second of two primary

elections leading up to the Nov. 2 general election. It came just 21 days after the first primary. And the ballot carried only 18 names in just nine contested races.

Lured to the polls yesterday were just 50,323 voters (unofficially), a measly 14 per cent of Pinellas County's registered electorate.

Despite the meager turnout, it was a complete election effort and it cost taxpayers a minimum of \$120,000 or at least \$2.38 for each