

Clements, White disagree on results of opinion polls

AUSTIN (AP) — Republican gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements and incumbent Democrat Mark White each say that new opinion polls reflect good news for them.

Clements, the former governor ousted by White in 1982, told *The Dallas Morning News* that a recent survey he commissioned shows him with a comfortable lead over White.

White's campaign disputed that Wednesday, saying its most recent survey and those of other politicians show White rapidly gaining ground on Clements.

Neither side agreed to make the actual poll results public.

In an interview with a *News* reporter in Uvalde, Clements said a survey by his pollster, Richard

Wirthlin of Washington D.C., showed him leading White.

The newspaper Wednesday quoted "campaign insiders" as saying the margin was more than 20 points. It said the survey of 600 likely voters was taken Aug. 23-24 and had a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Clements said the poll disputes suggestions by Democrats that White has closed the gap because of his leadership in calling the Legislature into special session and advocating a temporary tax increase to solve the state's fiscal crisis.

"All this nonsense that the White people are putting out that he is a great hero and making progress with the special session is nothing

more than baloney," Clements said. But Mark McKinnon, White's campaign press secretary, said White's polls show positive results for the governor.

"Our polls show dramatically different numbers," McKinnon said. "There are congressional district polls where we have moved 10 to 12 points in the last month."

He also charged the Clements camp with claiming a big lead to hide the results he said White's polls are showing.

"We think they're floating bad numbers because they're getting desperate," McKinnon said. "The numbers are shifting dramatically in our direction."

Jury shown tape of prison murder

ANGLETON (AP) — A videotape of the slaying of a Texas prison inmate who was stabbed more than 40 times was shown to a jury in the murder trial of the convict accused in the killing.

Virgil Barfield, serving a nine-year sentence for a Harris County burglary, is charged with the death of Calvin Massey, 21, at the Darrington Unit. Testimony in his trial resumed Wednesday in state district court.

Massey, who was serving seven years for a burglary conviction from Tarrant County, suffered numerous stab wounds to his head, neck, back and chest during the March 19, 1985 attack in a recreation room.

Monitoring the high-security area of the Darrington Unit with television cameras was a new policy when the stabbing death was taped. Officials said the recorder had been installed in an effort to cut down on inmate violence.

Prosecutor Paul Johnson played the tape twice Tuesday for jurors in Barfield's trial. The tape showed Barfield, 30, chase Massey around the small recreation room before he caught the victim and began stabbing him a few feet from the camera.

"Boss, boss," Massey yelled to attract the attention of the guards. The entire scene lasted about 45 seconds, Massey was rushed to the prison infirmary where he died a few minutes later.

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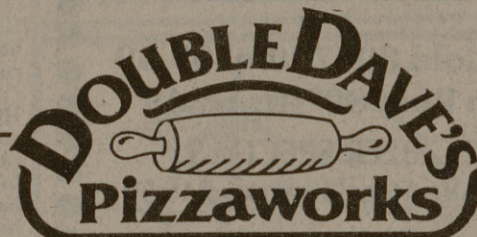
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