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White confident he'll win election despite new polls

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Mark White, rejecting recent opinion polls that show him trailing former Gov. Bill Clements, voiced increasing confidence Thursday that he again will defeat the Republican he ousted from office four years ago.

defeat the Republican he ousted from office four years ago. Although some polls within the last month have shown him as much as 15 percentage points behind, White said his position is improving.

White said his position is improving. "The (late September) Gallup poll showed us neck-and-neck," White said. "The poll that I ran personally (earlier this week) shows us in the same position."

White spent much of Thursday filming new television commercials. During a late-night interview Wednesday aboard his campaign plane, the Democratic incumbent told the Associated Press he believes he has overcome much of the animosity that dogged him during the primary.

primary. In May, White claimed less than 54 percent of the Democratic vote to win renomination.

But then, he said, "I was running against perfection." Now, voters have a clearer picture of the finalists. "We're down to two candidates," he said. "People have a chance to compare and contrast records."

White said he was able to accomplish many things Clements failed to achieve, including school reforms, increased funding for highways and passage of a statewide water conservation plan.

Although Clements has accused White of knowing only how to "tax and spend," White said he believes voters understand the necessity for his administration's tax hikes. "It was literally a choice between

"It was literally a choice between that (higher taxes) and bad schools and bad roads," he said. "People, know that."

At a fund-raising reception for White in Houston, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, said, "Just a couple of months ago, you heard people saying Mark White couldn't be elected, that he was down in the polls."

However, Bentsen said, that now has changed.

"I don't hear that kind of talk I heard two or three months ago," he said. "The talk I hear now is that he's even; he's pulling ahead."

Meese's remark on Court draws criticism from lawyers

GGEREBAI

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the American Bar Association on Thursday criticized Attorney General Edwin Meese's statement that Supreme Court decisions on the Constitution do not represent the absolute law of the land.

In a speech Tuesday night at Tulane University in New Orleans, Meese said government officials should be guided by their own views of the Constitution rather than always deferring to the Supreme Court.

"Supreme Court decisions are the law of the land just as acts of Congress are the law of the land," said Eugene C. Thomas, president of the 200,000-member ABA, the largest lawyers' professional association in the country, in response to Meese's comments. "Both can be tested in the courts, but unless — and until — they are overturned, they are the law of the land," Thomas said.

A Supreme Court decision binds the parties in the case and also the executive branch for whatever enforcement is necessary, Meese said.

But he added that "such a decision does not establish a 'supreme law of the land' that is binding on all persons and parts of government, henceforth and forevermore."

The ABA president said, however, that until a court decision is overruled, "public officials and private citizens alike are not free simply to disregard that legal holding, for it is a part of the body of binding constitutional law of the land."



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