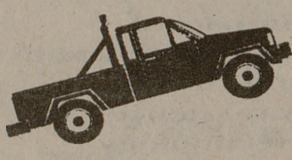


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Voter turnout 37%, lowest since 1942

WASHINGTON (AP) — The voter turnout for this year's midterm elections was the lowest in 44 years, partly because of uncontested races in some populous states and a public backlash against campaign mudslinging, experts said Wednesday.

Curtis Gans, head of the independent Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, said preliminary figures indicated that only 37.3 percent of the voting-age population — people 18 or older — cast ballots in Tuesday's elections.

That was less than the 37.7 percent who voted in 1978, and unparalleled since 1942, when slightly more than 30 percent of voting-age Americans cast ballots during the early period of World War II.

"There were two major reasons for the decline," Gans said in a telephone interview. "There would have been a decline in any case because there were non-competitive races in some of the major population states of the East," he said.

He said people were voting "no" on this campaign.

"I think it was a reaction to the nasty campaigning, to not being invited in to participate, to almost having an election and nobody knowing about it," he said.

Gans had predicted the decline a week ago, despite a 1.8 percent increase in voter registration in the 29 states from which data was available.

Power

(Continued from page 1)

our next speaker of the House and with Lloyd Bentsen as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Texas may well be in its strongest position since the days of Johnson and Rayburn," said Rep. Jake Pickle, D-Austin.

"With Wright as Speaker and Bentsen as Finance chairman, and me as senior member on Ways and Means, there may be some feeling that Texas may flex its muscles and try to get more of its share of government projects," Pickle said.

"I don't think that's the case," he said. "We should get our just portion. But Texans are not going to be flexing their muscles and being greedy because we're just as concerned about the deficit as any other state."

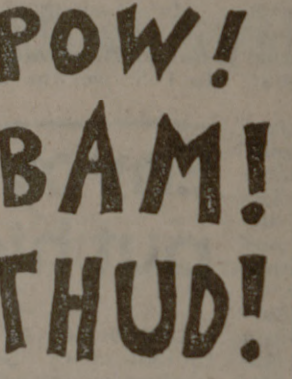
Pickle said the state's newly won power will insure Texas representatives will be included on government policy decisions from the beginning "instead of having to fight for our position."

Warped



by Scott McCulloch

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

State Elections

(Continued from page 1)

days not unlike those when Lyndon Johnson and Sam Rayburn helped run Congress.

Four state constitutional amendments passed, including one that allows branch banking, whose supporters say will make life easier for both banks and consumers.

The gubernatorial campaign was marked by bitter rhetoric, harsh campaign advertising and an electronic bug reported found in the office of a Clements adviser. Both campaign staffs were cleared of any wrongdoing by investigators in the bugging case.

The devastated oil market sent the once-booming state economy into a tailspin. White, trying to portray himself as a tough-minded decision-maker, urged state legislators to approve a tax hike and "blame me."

Some White campaign officials speculated later that perhaps the voters did blame him.

In congressional races, Democrats won 17 seats in the state's 27-member delegation, returning seven unopposed U.S. House members and 10 incumbents in contested races.

The Republicans won 10 contests, holding on to several of the seats gained on the coattails of Ronald Reagan's 1984 victory.

At the state level, Texas found itself with two top office-holders from different political parties, as it did in 1978 when Clements first was elected.

Fourteen-year veteran Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, a Democrat, won more than 60 percent of the vote to easily defeat GOP business consultant David Davidson of Austin and Libertarian candidate Bill Howell of Dallas.

Incumbent Attorney General Jim Mattox dashed Republican San Antonio district judge Roy Barrera Jr.'s hopes, even though Mattox's victory of less than 52 percent was far smaller than he had expected.

In the land commissioner's race, incumbent Democrat Garry Mauro, trounced Republican M.D. Anderson and Libertarian Honey Sue Latham of Austin with more than 61 percent of the vote.

One-term agriculture commissioner Jim Hightower sailed to victory with more than 60 percent of the vote, defeating Republican Bill Powers of Austin and Libertarian Rebecca Reed, a university student in San Antonio.

State Sen. John Sharp, D-Victoria, was elected to the Texas Railroad Commission with 55 percent, besting Republican state Rep. Milton Fox of Houston and Libertarian candidate

Chloe "Jack" Daniels of Farm Branch.

State treasurer Ann Richards and comptroller Bob Bullock, both Democrats who faced token opposition from Libertarian candidates, won easy victories of more than 90 percent in each race.

In the Texas Supreme Court races, all three justices facing opposition were re-elected to the Democratic-controlled court, including Gonzalez.

James Wallace and Gonzalez defeated Republican challengers while Robert Campbell beat his Libertarian opponent.

Democratic state Sen. Ora Mauzy won election to a vacant seat on the court, beating challenger Charles Ben Howell, an appellate justice.

Unopposed for seats on the Court of Criminal Appeals were Rusty Duncan and Justices Marvin O. Tague and Mike McCormick, all Democrats.

Freshman Republican Joe Bannister barely pulled out a win from Fort Worth lawyer Pete Green and freshman Rep. Mac Sweeney. Wharton eked out a win over Columbia lawyer Greg Laughlin.

In legislative races, House Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, beat GOP challenger K. Wayne

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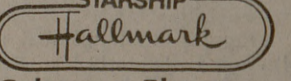
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