

District court judge faces challenger for first time

Contest for incumbent's seat only one he's seen in 2 terms

By MELODY DUNNE

Assistant City Editor of THE BATTALION

After two terms on the bench, Democrat John Delaney is facing his first contested election for judge of the 272nd District Court.

Bryan attorney John Hawtrey is running as a Republican against Delaney in the November election. Delaney said he hopes voters will look at his record instead of his political party. About one-third of the voters on the A&M campus voted straight-ticket in the last election. Delaney said straight-ticket voters show poor judgment.

"I think all of them are making a mistake," Delaney said. "They could crush some of us. A vote is just too precious to waste or to cast in the blind."

The best way to decide on a candidate is to look at their past record, Delaney said.

"Hopefully voters are informed on all the races," he said. "I'm confident if they study the record, they

will choose the right person."

Delaney said he enjoys his job — especially helping people escape the stress linked to court cases.

"Unresolved conflicts create recurring pain," he said.

"The faster the case is over, the faster the people can get on with their lives."

During his eight years on the bench, Delaney said he introduced a computer-assisted case management system and telephone hearings, innovations that reduced the civil case backlog by more than half.

"Lawyers from Houston, Austin, Dallas and other places can opt for a telephone hearing to save time and money," he said.

Delaney has also used a tape recorder in place of a court reporter, which he said saves Brazos County about \$31,000 a year, speeds up appeals and reduces the risk of trial reversals due to incomplete trial records.



Delaney

Republican candidate hopes to take 272nd District Court race from Democratic rival

By TANYA SASSER

Staff Writer of THE BATTALION

Republican lawyer John Hawtrey will oppose two-term Democratic incumbent John Delaney, who has never had a challenger, for the 272nd District Court bench position Tuesday.

Hawtrey said he decided to run against Delaney because the two lawyers hold different views on a number of issues.

"I decided to run against Judge Delaney because I didn't agree with his judicial philosophy," he said. "He's what we judges call a 'judicial activist'. He tries to do innovative procedures that I don't much care for."

Hawtrey said he favors tradi-

tion in the courtroom. As judge, he said he would administer the law as it exists, not change it.

Hawtrey said he opposes some of the progressive techniques that Delaney has implemented in his courtroom.

"Those of us who administer the system shouldn't experiment with it," he said. "We shouldn't be making our own rules. We should be the first ones to follow the rules."

Hawtrey said the issues of budget spending and what the average number of appellate trials in a given period of time should be are the main issues on which the two candidates have "locked horns."

Hawtrey said he thinks De-

laney had a high number of appeals in his trial court in the past five-and-one-half years.

"We have other differences but we've exhausted most of those differences in previous debates," he said. "Those are the two that are still up in the air."

Hawtrey has tried cases in about one-third of the state's counties and in all of the state's federal districts, he said.

Hawtrey said he has a wide variety of trial experience including the honor of appearing before the United States Supreme Court.



Hawtrey

Low-profile post in limelight

Race for railroad commissioner receives extra attention

By TODD STONE

Reporter of THE BATTALION

The race for Texas Railroad Commissioner, normally a low-profile office, has put the Republican and Democratic candidates in the media spotlight.

Democratic candidate Lena Guerrero has intensified claims that her Republican opponent, Barry Williamson, would misuse the position to enhance his family's business interests while Williamson has called Guerrero's personal integrity into question.

Past elections for the commission have generated little public interest, but that changed when it was revealed in early September that Guerrero had falsely claimed to be an honors graduate from the University of Texas in Austin.

Guerrero was the first Hispanic woman to hold a statewide office when she was appointed to the commission by Gov. Ann Richards

in 1990. She resigned from the commission Sept. 24, but chose to remain in the race.

"I believe I am the best candidate for the job," Guerrero said. "I believe I have the best record. If anybody thought that I earned something that I didn't deserve, then I gave you your seat back and decided to go out and earn it on my own."

The Williamson campaign has continued to attack Guerrero's character with political advertisements showing Guerrero at a Texas A&M commencement last summer in which she recalled her own commencement — even though she never graduated.

Guerrero said Williamson attacked her character because she has a strong public record.

"They (Republicans) had to search 12 years to find something on Lena Guerrero. They had to go back 20 years to find something on Bill Clinton," she said. "They

don't want to talk about the kind of things we've been doing. They don't want to talk about the Bill Clinton record as governor.

"It's the same for me." Williamson, former director of the U.S. Minerals Management Service, said his experience as an independent oilman makes him the most qualified of the two candidates.

"My opponent has no oil and gas experience," he said. "She's indicated that she has no experience. In the last 18 months she has been on the commission, we've lost 18,000 jobs, and she's studying."

"Well, when it comes to the Railroad Commission, school's out — study hall is over."

Guerrero said the extensive energy holdings of Williamson's wife and father-in-law, Bobby Hold of Midland, place

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HELPING HAND



RICARDO GARCIA/The Battalion

Officer Mann of the Texas A&M University Police Department assists Sean Pritchett, freshman general studies student from Louisville, on Sunday. Pritchett locked his keys in his car while unloading it near the quad.

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WHEN: MONDAY, NOV. 2 7-8:15 PM

PLACE: Room 110 Student Services Building
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Aggie Ring Orders

Orders are being taken on the 2nd floor of the CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS JR. ALUMNI CENTER for March '93 delivery.

You **must** come to the Ring Office **no later than** Wednesday, November 11, 1992 to fill out the form for an audit of your transcript. (It is suggested that you do this as soon as possible, in the event a problem exists.) At that time you will be given a date to return to check on your status, since one-two days are required for processing the audit before you may order and pay for your ring.

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7:00 PM
212 MSC