

Williamson beats Guerrero in railroad commissioner race

By TODD STONE
Reporter of THE BATTALION



Williamson

Republican candidate Barry Williamson defeated Democrat Lena Guerrero for a seat on the Texas Railroad Commission after a bitter campaign in which both candidates attacked one another's honesty and integrity.

"The people of Texas, it appears tonight, have spoken. I want to congratulate Barry Williamson on his victory. We wish him well," Guerrero said to supporters in Austin.

With 81 percent of precincts counted, Williamson had 57 percent of the vote to Guerrero's 43 percent. Libertarian candidate Richard Draheim Jr., 34, of Rockwall, had 7 percent.

"It's time to create jobs for Texas. That's what this campaign is all about," Williamson, 35, said to cheering supporters in Dallas. He supports tax incentives for Texas energy industry and a competitive trucking system statewide.

Guerrero, who was appointed to the commission by Gov. Ann Richards in 1990, was attempting to salvage her political career after

it was revealed she had falsified her resume by claiming she graduated with honors from the University of Texas in Austin.

Guerrero, 34, resigned from the commission but remained in the race "to go out and earn it on my own." Guerrero was the first Hispanic woman to hold a state office in Texas.

The controversy placed an otherwise low-profile campaign into the limelight of Texas politics.

During the campaign, Williamson attacked Guerrero's character with political advertisements showing Guerrero at a Texas A&M commencement last summer in which she recalled her own commencement although she never graduated.

Guerrero countered with claims that Williamson would misuse the Railroad Commission to enhance his family's business interests because of the extensive energy holdings of Williamson's wife and father-in-law, Bobby Holt of Midland.

"The opportunity to manipulate the government for personal gain is in the very essence wrong," Guerrero said. "If it is not illegal, it is totally unethical."

Williamson said his family's energy holdings are in a blind trust, and he has promised to excuse himself from any proceedings that would involve his family's business.

The Railroad Commission regulates oil and gas production and the trucking industry in Texas.

Despite the personal attacks,

both candidates had few differences on specific issues.

Both wanted to explore new markets for the oil and gas industry, specifically natural gas. Their main difference centered around regulating the trucking industry.

Williamson said he supports deregulation, claiming it will save 20,000 jobs and bring \$1 billion in economic growth to Texas. Guerrero wants to continue regulation to maintain safety.

Williamson began working in the U.S. Department of Energy in 1988 and was director of the federal Minerals Management Service from 1989 to 1991. The Railroad Commission will be the first public-elected position of Williamson's career.

Guerrero accused Williamson of mishandling the federal Minerals Management Service while he was head of the agency.

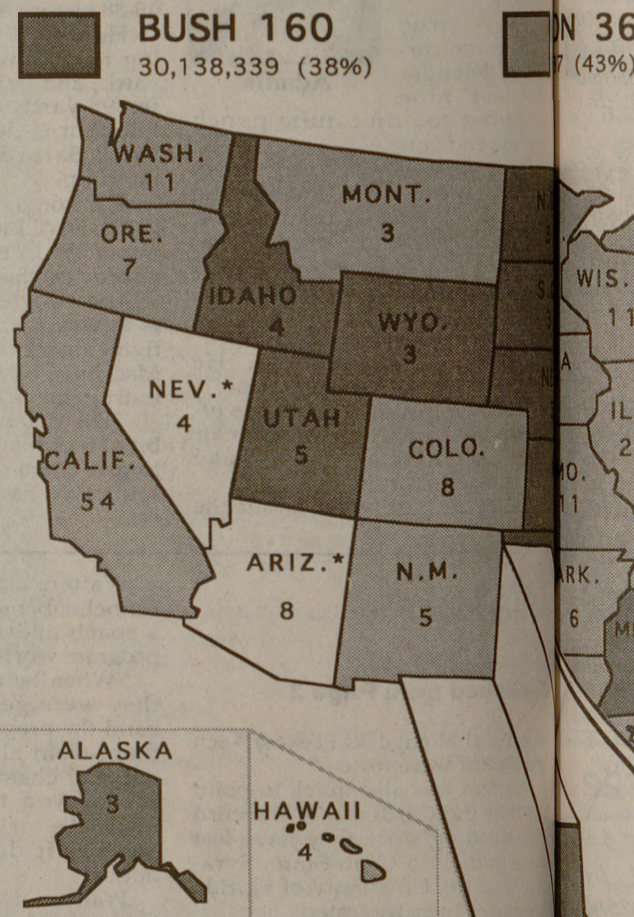
But Williamson called Ms. Guerrero's claims off-base and focused on the diploma brouhaha.

"Since she found it easy to lie about her own record, it's not surprising she would lie about his," said a Williamson campaign ad.

With contributions from the Associated Press

How the U.S. ...

ELECTORAL (76% of ...)
POPULAR VOTE (P ...)



Experts predict busy time in D.C.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Bill Clinton's sweeping victory and the election of dozens of fresh faces in Congress create instant expectations for a break in government gridlock and a rush toward solutions to fix the economy.

After 12 years of Republican rule at the White House, the country is turning toward another course, with Clinton's activist government in command. It's an unmistakable vote for change.

"We're going to have a very active government for awhile," predicted Michael K. Deaver, one of the top advisers in Ronald Reagan's White House. "That's going to get the town bustling. All the communications people and lobbyists are going to be active again — health care, jobs bills, tax proposals."

"Hold on to your seats," said Burton Yale Pines, chairman of the National Center for Public Policy Research, a conservative think

Renewed Congressional activity, new political appointees could break gridlock

tank, predicting a surge of legislation when Congress returns in January. Bills that President Bush vetoed, family leave for instance, are sure to be back next year and coast through.

There will be a giant turnover in jobs, as more than 3,000 Republican political appointees are replaced by Democrats.

Real estate agents already are licking their chops in anticipation of sales.

Clinton offered a generational and ideological change. At 46, he'll be the first baby boomer in the White House.

Come January, more than 100 new House members will take their seats. Intent on restoring their legitimacy in the eyes of voters, lawmakers will be intent on getting things done.

Stephen Wayne, a Georgetown University specialist on the presi-

dency, said Clinton's victory generates "a kind of new optimism that government can work."

Fixing the economy is job No. 1. And Election Day provided an unwelcome reminder of the problem: The government's gauge of future economic activity fell in September for the third time in four months.

Clinton aides said his first proposals would be aimed at sparking the economy. He is expected to propose investment tax breaks and tens of billions of dollars in spending on public works projects to create jobs.

Clinton promised tax cuts for the middle class, but that might go on hold because of the record budget deficit that topped \$290 billion.

Voters also made clear they want the president and Congress to produce a plan to control soaring health-care costs and provide coverage for the more than 40 million

Americans who have no health insurance.

Clinton said he would phase in universal coverage, and a national health board would set budget ceilings for health care spending.

With the election behind him, Clinton's next assignment would

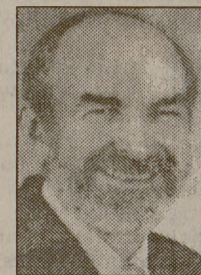
"We're going to have a very active government for awhile."

— Michael K. Deaver, a top adviser in Ronald Reagan's White House

be the 10-week transition to taking over the White House.

His first appointments were expected to be members of his economic team and his secretary of state. The hope is to send reassuring signals that he's serious about getting the economy going, and that he will be a serious player on the world stage.

Libertarians sieze over of



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THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Several Texas Libertarian candidates benefited Tuesday from protest votes, polling more than 10 percent in some state races.

Leading the way was Randal Morgan who got 18 percent of the vote in State Senate District 16 against Repub-

lican John Leeder

But for the state in Libertarian candidate Androu, who received 10 percent of the vote.

The contentions Libertarian N. Draheim Jr. only 7 percent of the vote.

Noel Kopala in the S

Sheriff-elect Bobby Riggs is congratulated at the Plaza Club in Bryan after early elections returns indicated his victory over Republican incumbent Ronnie Miller.



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Election go, but no

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — After two hundreds of television commercials and thousands of speeches, the hot 1992 elections are over.

Finally. But before Texans of all persuasions breathe a sigh of relief, here's a last look at some of the highs and lows, bests and worsts, mosts and leasts of the state's long, long campaign season:

Shortest Political Future "No. A definite, absolute qualified no."

— Interim Railroad Commissioner Jim Wallace on whether he is interested in serving long-term for three months.

Most Ill-Timed Complaint "It's hard getting covered in a down-ballot race."

— Aide to Lena Guerrero one day before the Democratic Commission candidate's ad campaign she lacked a college diploma on every front page in

Best Surrender "I'm calling in the posse giving myself up."

— U.S. Rep. Charlie Williams

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