

Incumbent Brown and Sanchez in runoff

HOUSTON (AP) — Incumbent Lee Brown, bidding for a third two-year term, and city councilman Orlando Sanchez pulled away from a field of six Tuesday and headed for a runoff that would pit Houston's first black mayor against a challenger who could become the city's first Hispanic mayor.

With 93 percent of the precincts counted, Brown had 113,390 votes, or 42 percent, edging Sanchez, with 110,031, or 41 percent. Another councilman, Chris Bell, had 45,334, or 16 percent.

None of the three unfunded candidates had more than 1 percent of the remaining votes.

Brown, as mayor, will set the date for any runoff in a city race. State law requires runoff elections to be held no sooner than 22 days after the first voting and no later than 36 days after the first voting. The early voting period for this election began Oct. 20.

"We're going in now for the knockout punch. One down and one to go," Brown told supporters at a victory rally.

Sanchez said his votes and those for Bell combined for a majority of all the votes and indicated Houstonians wanted a change.

"Help is on the way," he said. "A majority of voters decided it was time for a new beginning."

Bell said he was disappointed "at not having the opportunity to put our ideas to the test." He declined Tuesday night to

endorse either runoff participant.

Results last weekend from a poll taken for the *Houston Chronicle* and television station KHOU showed Sanchez and Brown in a statistical dead heat in a one-on-one race in a city that is becoming increasingly Hispanic and in a nonpartisan election that became increasingly partisan.

Brown, 64, a Democrat, is a former police chief in Houston, Atlanta and New York City and also had a cabinet spot in the Clinton Administration as the federal drug enforcement czar.

He campaigned for Democratic presidential candidate Al Gore last year.

Bell, 42, also a Democrat, is an attorney and former radio newsman who has been on the council for four years.

Sanchez, 43, a Republican, is a former probation officer and construction industry consultant who is winding up his third term as a councilman.

Public safety, the foundation of Sanchez's campaign, emerged as the top issue, particularly after a fire captain was killed last month while fighting a high-rise blaze. Firefighters, whose union endorsed Sanchez, long had complained about what they said were understaffed fire trucks.

Following the fatality, Brown ordered an additional firefighter on trucks to bring staffing levels to national firefighting standards. His opponents, however, said he was responding to the political heat.

"We're going in now for the knockout punch. One down, and one to go."

— Lee Brown
Houston Mayor

NEWS IN BRIEF

Inmate shot by bailiff at courthouse

DENTON (AP) — A bailiff at a North Texas courthouse fatally shot an inmate Tuesday afternoon when the prisoner tried to grab another officer's gun.

No other injuries were reported, said Kevin Patton of the Denton County Sheriff's Department.

The shooting happened about 3:30 p.m. in a holding area for prisoners on the third floor of the Denton County Courts building, Patton said.

Patton said the inmate grabbed for the first bailiff's gun and a struggle ensued. A second bailiff then fatally shot the unidentified suspect, who died at the scene, Patton said.

The facility was closed for about 40 minutes after the shooting, Patton said.

Man accused of sexual assault

DALLAS (AP) — The stepfather of an 8-year-old Hutchins girl found severely malnourished and locked in a lice-infested closet has been indicted on a charge of aggravated sexual assault.

Kenneth Ray Atkinson already faced a first-degree felony indictment accusing him and Barbara Atkinson, the girl's mother, of severely injuring the child by locking her in a closet in their mobile home for months.

Atkinson, 33, is accused of sexually abusing the girl in several ways, according to reports made public Monday.

A doctor previously testified that the girl had been sexually mutilated.

Defense lawyer Malcolm Dade, Atkinson's attorney, declined to address the latest allegations until talking with his client.

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Adam Baker	Chris Burling	Jason Verdeen	Mark Brown	Ryan Bickley
Adam Brewett	Chris Chavez	Javier Aguirre	Mark Carroll	Ryan Bishop
Adam Stalman	Chris Creedon	Jay Mortenson	Mark Costilla	Ryan Brown
Adam Withers	Chris Jarvis	Jay Sullivan	Mark Moran	Ryan Collier
Alex Jennings	Chris Porter	JD Guerdard	Mark Pearce	Ryan Jenkins
Alex VanRooyen	Clay Caldwell	Jeff Brand	Mark Wasserman	Ryan Jerke
Allen Moon	Clayton Nato	Jeff Cook	Mason Miller	Ryan Phillips
Andres Gomez	Clayton Sheppard	Jeff Faul	Matt Barger	Ryan Schmidt
Andrew Ball	Cliff Moore	Jeff Jones	Matt Bishop	Ryan Summers
Andrew Grohmann	Cody Bain	Jeff Kutac	Matt Christmas	Ryan Thompson
Andrew Johnson	Cody Cox	Jeff Meyers	Matt Donelson	Ryan Wozny
Andrew Middleton	Cody Harkness	Jeff Schuitz	Matt Eller	Sager Bhatt
Andrew Offer	Cody Marcum	Jeff Whanger	Matt Fuller	Sagi Koborsi
Andrew Shearfield	Cody Walters	Jeremy Demack	Matt James	Sam Shaldon
Andrew Widmer	Colin Park	Jeremy Hall	Matt Laue	Scott Gobie
Andy Flournoy	Colin Williams	Jeremy Shields	Matt Martin	Scott McLaughlin
Andy Herreth	Collin Korenek	Jesse Escamilla	Matt Moog	Scott Taylor
Angel Hart	Corey Carothers	John Dabel	Matt Morrison	Sean Larkin
Anthony Shea	Corey Oliver	JK Kvasovic	Matt Mulkey	Sean Manuel
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Brad Clark	Dave Adkins	Josh Cathcart	Mike Lodzinski	Taylor Bacot
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Brad Matlock	David Pruitt	Josh Smith	Nathan Jones	Thomas Danner
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Brandon Bolo	Dean Briones	Justin Carswell	Nick Bartosh	Timothy Ateak
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