

GETS 80 PER CENT OF VOTE

McKeithen Scores Lopsided Victory

By DAVE DODD

It was a lopsided, mostly dull, and precedent-setting Democratic primary election.

Gov. John McKeithen won it for himself and for incumbents all over the state, rolling to his second straight term after voter approval last November of a Constitutional amendment that allowed him to run again. In the process:

—The governor amassed a landslide 80 per cent vote in beating his nearest opponent, conservative U.S. Rep. John R. Rarick.

—The first Negro since Reconstruction was apparently

ELECTION COVERAGE

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elect to the Legislature and two others were in runoff elections for legislative posts.

—Conservative Democrats claimed victory in a fight to swing the state party's 1968 presidential weight into George Wallace's camp.

With only 65 of 2,396 precincts still not reported, unofficial retruns from the Saturday's million-vote primary had Gov. McKeithen scoring the most impressive political victory of this century in Louisiana.

Here are the latest vote totals in the statewide races:

GOVERNOR	
(2,329 of 2,396 precincts)	
John J. McKeithen	813,637
John R. Rarick	174,213
Frank J. Ahern	7,364
Cy D. F. Courtney	8,236

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A. Roswell Thompson 5,334
SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION

(2,227 of 2,396 precincts)
William J. Dodd 678,946
Ned O. Touchstone 182,121

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE
(2,026 of 2,396 Precincts)

Dudley A. Guglielmo 437,788
Jack Simpson 136,503
W. Spencer Myrick 105,023
John W. Davidson 55,643
Raymond E. Wingate 32,078

CUSTODIAN OF VOTING MACHINES
(2,026 of 2,396 Precincts)

Douglas Fowler 638,281
Jerome A. Sauer 86,722

Although McKeithen carried every parish, Rarick made his best showing in West Carroll Parish where the vote was 2,703 to 2,038. McKeithen beat Rarick by a margin of 7 to 1 in Orleans and Caddo Parishes and 14 to 1 in Plaquemines Parish.

Wallace supporters contended they had scored a "conservative sweep" in their fight to gain solid control of the state party hierarchy, the 117-member Democratic State Central Committee.

LEANDER H. Perez Sr., Plaquemines Parish segregationist leader and a prime force behind the move to give Wallace the preferred spot on Louisiana's presidential ballot next year, said yesterday:

"I would say the conservatives have won a majority of the seats."

National party loyalists, seeking to prevent the move to force President Johnson into a third-party role in the state next year, maintained it was too early to tell which side had won. Runoffs were indicated in many of the races.

PEREZ said his only aim in the battle is to force Johnson's electors to run in a primary next year against Wallace's electors.

"I'm working to make those renegades in Washington, damn their hides, come before the people," he said.

The fight is over the rooster emblem, which identifies Democratic candidates in Louisiana. It has been denied to the national party nominee only once.

Camille Gravel of Alexandria, a loyalist, said the governor's role in the future committee sessions actually will decide who gets the rooster, Johnson or Wallace.

McKEITHEN said yesterday it would take "nothing short of a miracle" for President Lyndon B. Johnson to carry Louisiana in next year's national races.

"It doesn't require any maneuvering to prevent him from doing it," said the governor about the current struggle to force Johnson into a third party role.

"We're not going to allow the national party to be kept off the ballot," the governor said. "We're not going to allow anybody to be kept off the ballot."

McKEITHEN said he would not involve himself in the battle for control of the State Central Committee.

"The best chance to get Johnson defeated most soundly is to see that his name gets on the ballot—and perhaps underline it," said McKeithen.

Happy and relaxed, McKeithen talked to reporters about the election yesterday.

"I defeated a way-out conservative," said McKeithen. "This is the first time that a (Louisiana) governor has won without taking a big stand as a conservative."

The governor said Rarick's "type of campaign hurt him."

HE ALSO commented on the election of a Negro to the Legislature. McKeithen said, "This isn't the first time a Negro has been elected to public office in Louisiana. He will be accepted here at the capitol and given all the courtesies and emoluments of the office."

Reapportionment spelled trouble for at least two top legislative leaders.

House Speaker Vail Delony and Sen. Dudley J. LeBlanc both face runoffs as a result of the Saturday primary.

The impact of legislative reapportionment on legislative incumbents was great. A dozen senators and 31 representatives decided ahead of time against seeking reelection.

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