

New Orleans States-Item
'Ins' Handed Beating
In Orleans Area Vote

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By JACK WARDLAW

New Orleans area voters are continuing to show the dissatisfaction with established political leaders that characterized last year's major statewide races.

In Saturday's Democratic primary, they defeated a long-entrenched district attorney, a well-known state senator, two incumbent school board members, a sheriff and a recorder of mortgages.

All of these except the school board members, who were seeking re-election, were asking for promotions to higher posts, and were soundly rebuffed. The only exceptions to the trend in major races were an incumbent tax assessor seeking election in his own right after being appointed, and a civil judge asking promotion to the state Supreme Court.

Going down to defeat were:

—Orleans Parish District Attorney Jim Garrison, suffering his first political setback in more than a decade, in his bid for a Supreme Court post.

—State Sen. Carl W. Bauer of Franklin, victim of an upset in his try for a U. S. Congressional seat from the Third District.

—Patrick W. Burke and Dr. Warren V. Ales, president and vice president respectively of the controversial Jefferson Parish School Board, apparently victims of a desire by East Jefferson voters for new faces on that body.

—Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriff Louis A. Heyd Jr., narrowly thwarted in his bid for a Criminal Court judgeship. This was also an upset, inasmuch as it was widely assumed Heyd would lead the ticket.

—Orleans Parish Recorder of Mortgages Francis P. Demarest Jr., beaten badly in a try for a seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal.

And, one might say, the voters also dethroned a king, rejecting Leon Sarpy, this year's Rex, in his bid for elective office on the Supreme Court.

Garrison's loss was no upset, but it might be the most significant political development of the day. The DA was once considered unbeatable at the polls but Civil District Judge Walter F. Marcus made it look easy, whipping the DA 104,676 to 88,460.

GARRISON RETAINS his post as district attorney, but the loss will certainly encourage his potential opponents when he comes up for re-election next year.

The ease with which lawyer Pascal

Continued from Page 1

F. Calogero Jr. knocked off Sarpy was something of a surprise, since that race had been rated a tossup. Calogero breezed home 105,170 to 85,975, actually winning by a bigger margin than Marcus.

Acknowledging his defeat, Sarpy said, "The people have spoken. I wish to express my high esteem to the hundreds of citizens who supported me in so many ways and the 86,000 voters who approved the principles for which we stood in the face of strong political coalitions. It was an experience which I shall never forget. I wish Mr. Calogero well."

Bauer was upset by J. Louis Watkins Jr., a Houma lawyer and a political newcomer. Watkins won 49,073 to 41,429, piling up his margin in his home parishes of Lafourche and Terrebonne where he and his family are widely known. He has a stiff fight on his hands in the Nov. 7 general election from Republican David C. Treen of Metairie.

BURKE AND ALES were beaten handily by two new faces, Harold M. Keller and Henry E. Williams, in the East Bank contest.

On the West Bank, where two more school board seats were at stake, there were no incumbents but the voters resurrected an old face, that of Charles M. "Chuck" Miller, a former board member and parish councilman. The other West Bank winner was James E. Lawson Jr., a schoolteacher.

Heyd barely missed a run off in the Criminal District Court race, in which voters seemed to prefer a political dynasty. The election (actually a first Democratic primary coinciding with second primaries in the other races) was to fill the seat of the late Judge Rudolph F. Becker Jr.

AND WHO SHOULD emerge far ahead in the voting but his son, Ru-

dolph F. Becker III. His second primary foe will be lawyer John P. Nelson Jr., who narrowly edged out Heyd for the Nov. 7 runoff.

Patrick M. Schott, a lawyer, easily won the Orleans Parish seat on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal over Demarest.

But First Municipal Assessor Lawrence A. Comiskey Jr. had no trouble at all winning the race to succeed his late uncle, the redoubtable Assessor James E. Comiskey, over an unknown, Thomas J. Baumler.

In other races around the four-parish area:

—ARABI LAWYER Edward Boop had no trouble defeating Mrs. Maxine Cope-
lin in the race for the First Congressional District seat on the Louisiana Board of Education.

—IN OTHER Jefferson Parish Judgeship races, Sol Gothard beat George Gillespie Jr. for a juvenile judgeship; Thomas C. Wicker whipped George P. "Pat" Hand and Wallace C. LeBrun beat A. Russell Roberts in races for two 24th Judicial District judgeships.

ONLY ONE elected incumbent in the four-parish area stood off a challenge. He was Ward 5 St. Bernard Parish School Board member Robert Torres, who beat Roger Nunez. In Ward 2, where there was no incumbent, Arthur Liuzza defeated Mrs. Rita Dowd.

Elsewhere in the state, another incumbent took a tumble when Ed Ken-
non of Minden ousted John S. Hunt as public service commissioner from the Northern District.

And in Southwest Louisiana, Seventh Congressional District voters chose a young lawyer, John Breaux, as their congressman over Gary Tyler of Lake Charles. Breaux takes office immediately to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Gov. Edwin W. Edwards.

Turn to Page 10, Column 1