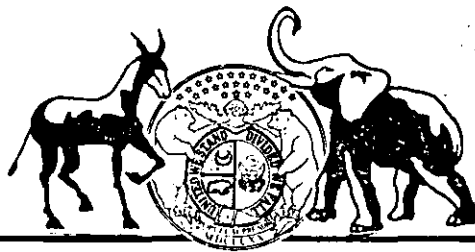


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THE INSIDER

Official Publication of the Board of Election Commissioners of St. Louis Co 41 South Central Avenue, Clayton, MO 889-2255

While the Summer of 1987 would normally have been a slow time at the Election Board with no August Primary for which to prepare, it was instead a period of intense activity mixed with sadness. Two of our employees, Dorothy Riordan and Julia Gualdoni, died during the month of June. The last half of June and most of July were spent comparing each of our 560,000 records from the Precinct Registration Books with our Headquarters File in preparation for the conversion to the Voter I.D. Cards and Precinct Register. Since the mailing of the I.D. Cards in July served as our biennial countywide mail canvass, we also had to contend with over 21,000 record changes - the best response ever to a canvass!

In the August Supplemental election, the first one in which the new Voter I.D. Cards were used, 81% of the voters brought their Cards with them to the polls. This was considerably higher than we had expected.

September has seen the installation of new vote tabulating computers. This new equipment will be used for the November election and represents the final major step in updating our office in preparation of the Presidential Election Year.

PAUL S. DeGREGORIO

ANN M. BARDGETT

DOROTHY RIORDAN 1924-1987

The St. Louis County Election Board was shocked and saddened to learn of the unexpected death Sunday, June 14th, of Dorothy Riordan, one of our most respected and dedicated employees.

Dorothy began her career at the Board in 1970. She was promoted to Team Supervisor in 1980, the position she held at the time of her death. An unfailingly gracious personality and positive outlook on life earned her the love and admiration of everyone who knew her.



Dorothy was looking forward to her retirement in two years so she could spend more time with her daughters Maureen, Mary Chris, Michelle Powell and Melissa Hayes, a son Michael and her six grandchildren.

JULIA GUALDONI 1945-1987

Julia Gualdoni, 42, an eleven year veteran of the County Election Board, died June 22nd after a long illness. She had worked in the EIS department for the last two years.

Tom McNiff, Julie's uncle and Bonhomme Township Committeeman, remembers his niece for the enthusiasm and love of politics she brought to the Bonhomme club. Her love of politics though was no less than her love of people; and this is what made her so special to all of us. Julie's family included her mother, Marie, a sister, Maria and everyone who worked with her at the Election Board.



VOTER I.D. CARDS MAILED TO COUNTY VOTERS

Personal Voter I.D. Cards, the key to the County Election Board's conversion from the old Voter Registration Books to the new computer printout Precinct Register Binder, were mailed to all St. Louis County registered voters on July 20th. The first test of the new system was the August Supplemental election.

Of the 3,666 voters who cast ballots on August 4th, a surprisingly high 81% brought their I.D. Cards with them to the polls.

All of our election judges will be trained in the use of these new procedures which will be in use throughout St. Louis County beginning with the November election.

ELECTION JUDGES TO BE HONORED AT CERVANTES CONVENTION CENTER

The Constitutional Bicentennial Commission of the United States, in cooperation with the St. Louis City and County Election Boards, will host a celebration of our voting rights for all county and city election judges.

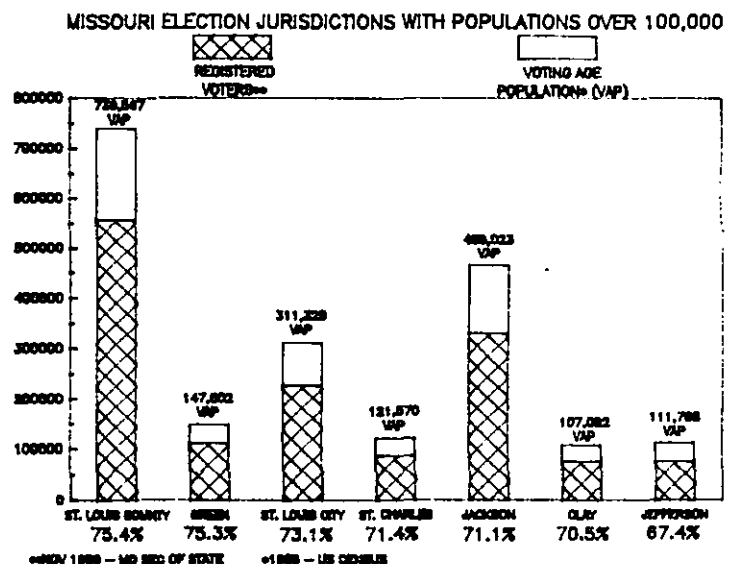
The benefit will be held at the Cervantes Convention Center on Tuesday, October 27th, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and will be a tribute to the people who really make our elections work.

Election judges will be honored with speeches, patriotic music and refreshments and will be given a pin and certificate for their service.

ST LOUIS COUNTY TAKES TOP SPOT FOR VOTER REGISTRATION IN MISSOURI

Figures available from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Office of the Missouri Secretary of State show that an aggressive voter registration policy by the St. Louis County Election Board is showing results.

In a comparison of all election jurisdictions in Missouri with populations over 100,000, St. Louis County came in first, with 75.4% of those eligible actually registered to vote.



PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CONSOLIDATION BILL DIES IN SENATE COMMITTEE

A bill to consolidate the 1988 April Municipal elections into the March 8th Presidential Primary died in the Senate Budget Control Committee with the closing bell of the 1987 session on June 15th. Despite a vote of 120-23 by the House of Representatives on February 26th in favor of consolidation and a strong lobbying effort by election authorities throughout the state, H.B. 22 was not brought up for a vote.

We must now make plans to hold two countywide elections just 28 days apart. St. Louis County officials should note, however, that State Statutes call for the elimination of the regularly scheduled February, 1988 election because of the Primary.

OLD VOTER REGISTRATION BOOKS DONATED TO MISSOURI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The St. Louis County Election Board voted on June 2nd to turn over to the Missouri Historical Society in Forest Park three complete sets of registration books dating from 1924-1936. The books had been slowly deteriorating in our basement vault since the 1930's.

St. Louis County of fifty years ago was divided into five townships as compared to twenty today. Each of the 565 precinct books contains a map which shows County development at the time. The collection is open to the public and should prove to be a valuable source of genealogical data to future historians.

NOVEMBER ELECTION

In the countywide Supplemental election to be held on November 3rd, St. Louis County voters will be asked to include the Missouri Historical Society in the Metropolitan Zoological Park and Museum District with a 4 cent tax increase while the Metropolitan Sewer District asks for authorization to issue bonds and increase service charges. Residents of Dellwood, Ellisville, Peerless Park and Vinita Park will decide local propositions and fee increases. Annexation proposals will be on the ballot in Ballwin, Creve Coeur, Florissant and Overland. The Hancock Place School District is proposing a tax increase to cover the acquisition cost of the old St. Mary on the Mount Hospital.

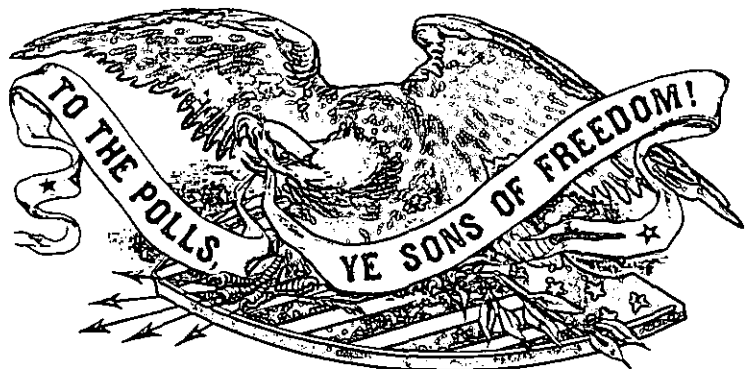
DEDICATION

Labor pains during the April Municipal election were not reason enough to take Shirley Harrold, An Airport Township judge since 1968, away from the polls before the Mid-day pickup. Although the early signs proved to be a false alarm, Shirley and her husband Frank tell us that April Harrold (9 lbs., 3 oz.) finally made her grand entrance on April 18th. Congratulations!!!

IN THE OFFICE— Trish Todd, Team 3 Clerk, and her husband, Phil, have announced the arrival of their first child, Adam, born April 24th; Karen Noah of Missouri River Township, a temporary employee but an old hand around the Election Board, will be filling in for Trish while she is on maternity leave; Paul DeGregorio, Republican Director of Elections, and his wife, Kerry, are the proud parents of their fourth child and fourth daughter, Emily, born May 22nd; Denise Roth, Team 5 Clerk, and her husband, Steve, are looking forward to their first child in December; a month before Debbie Quicke, Mapping, and her husband, Joe, are expecting their first; Gina Barron, Field Operations, and her husband, Jim, will be new parents in February; Nancy Woods has been named Democratic Executive Secretary, replacing Barbara Geller who has left the Board after three years; Dorothy Taylor has been promoted to Team 5 Supervisor; Vera Abuzelde has taken over Dorothy's old job of Team 4 Democratic Judge/Clerk; Diane Schneider of Queeny Township, who joined the Election Board in March as Team 2 Clerk, has been promoted to EIS Assistant, on September 12th Diane also married Jorge Garcia; Shirley Moerschell has moved up to Team 4 Supervisor, Mary O'Connor from Northwest Township is the new Team 3 Clerk; Pat Hartog, Team 1 Clerk, retired from the Board in September after nine years of service.



DID YOU KNOW--that not everyone who goes to the polls votes for the highest office on the ballot? In the 1984 November General election, even though 488,864 St. Louis County residents went to the polls, only 480,828 of those, or 98.36% cast a vote for a presidential candidate. On the same day, in the race for Governor between John Ashcroft and Kenneth Rothman, 98% voted. The office of Lt. Governor drew 97.3% while only 94.7% voted in the race for Secretary of State. For the statewide offices of Treasurer and Attorney General, 94.9% of those going to the polls voted. Traditionally, the lower the office, the greater the voter fall-off.



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REGISTER
& VOTE ★