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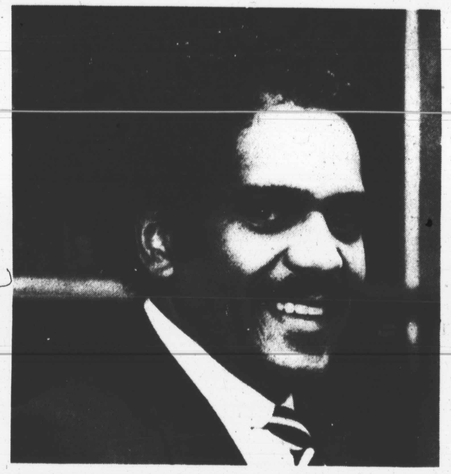
A WINNING TEAM FOR THE PEOPLE



RE-ELECT COUNCILMAN

MICHAEL B. MITCHELL

LEVER 7A

ELECT

AGNES WELCH

LEVER 8C

CITY COUNCIL • FOURTH DISTRICT

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1983

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

THEY WILL WORK TOGETHER FOR US IN CITY HALL...

MAYOR

WILLIAM DONALD SCHAEFER

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

CLARENCE 'DU BURNS

COMPTROLLER

JOHN W. DOUGLASS

By Auth: J. STEVENSON PECK, TREAS.

By William Lunsford

In the last three City Council elections the outcome in the 2nd District was highly predictable. With the combined political muscle of the black Eastside Democratic (EDO) and the white New Democratic Club (2nd District) rolling over the opposition, with near-military precision, the only question, going into the election, was the margin of victory.

However, this year, there will not be an encore performance. This EDO/NDC coalition is dead, killed by policy disputes and political ambitions. And the death of the coalition has made it virtually impossible to prognosticate the council election outcome.

As a record 22 candidates are vying for the district's three City Council seats, the formation of new political alliances, in an effort to fill the vacuum created by the EDO/NDC split, will more than likely be the key to success for the winning candidates.

The 2nd Councilmanic District covers the inner city, predominately white neighborhoods along and west of Charles Street, from Mount Vernon, north to the lower part of Roland Park; and virtually all of the predominately black neighborhoods of East Baltimore.

The district's population is more than two-thirds black, and since 1971 the district's council delegation has been two-thirds black and one-third white, as a reflection of the racial composition.

In previous elections the district's white voters wielded a disproportionately large share of influence in determining election outcomes, due to consistently low black voter turnouts. However, in 1982, blacks voted in higher percentages than whites. The result was an apparent shift of political power to the black precincts. Due to the large number of black candidates, who threaten to splinter the black vote, the shift in political influence may be more apparent than real.

None of the candidates elected in 1979 will be on this year's ballot. Nathan Irby left EDO in 1981, after a policy dispute, and successfully challenged his former ally, Robert Douglass, for the state senate seat in the 45th Legislative District in last year's election. Clarence Du Burns is now the president of the City Council, having been appointed to the position in 1982, following Walter Orlinsky's conviction on a bribery count. Burns is the first black person to hold the position of council president and is running for election to full term in the office. Mary Par Clarke is giving up her seat in the council to challenge Burns for the president's seat.

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Following is a brief profile of the major candidates and their views on the issues in the district.

Are alliances the key in the crowded 2nd?

ANTHONY AMBRIDGE

Ambridge, the owner of a Charles Village Sub Shop, is making his second attempt at elective office. In 1982 he ran unsuccessfully for a House of Delegates seat in the 39th District. This year, running with the backing of NDC, he hopes to be the heir to Mary Pat Clarke's seat in the council. As the leading white candidate in the council race, Ambridge stands to benefit most from a split in the black vote.

On the issues: "In the next four years, the leadership of the city should start thinking more about the needs of the masses of people, rather than concentrating so much on the chosen few. We need to set definite priorities, such as improving the education of our children; providing adequate housing for every one; and improving the quality of life in all of our neighborhoods . . . Only by forming coalitions with other groups, as I've done in this election can we accomplish these goals.

GEORGE BUNTIN

Buntin is the director of the Druid Heights Community Corporation. In 1979, he was a key person in the election of Kweisi Mfume to the City Council in the 4th District. While seeming at times to be operating a one-man campaign, Buntin has worked hard to get broad exposure in the district. On the issues: "No one else running has anything constructive to offer. Only Ralph Moore and myself can talk about past community service.

"I have extensive experience in government, having worked for four different city agencies. As a city employee, and as director of the Druid Heights Community Corporation, I have almost daily contact with the heads of major city agencies. I have a track record of performing public service work. I am committed to doing this type of work. My commitment is evidenced by my work with the NAACP and the Housing Alliance, both of which I am Vice President of.

"I have been endorsed by the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, the Baptist Ministers, Baltimore Clergy in Action, and the Environmental Issues Alliance.

"The primary function of a councilman is constitutent services. Without the experience of working with the city agency heads, the bureaucracy will simply ignore your efforts."

CURTIS CHAPMAN

Chapman is a captain in the Baltimore City Fire Department. He is president of the Coldstream Homestead Montebello Community Corporation, and is making his first bid for elective office. On the issues: "With my experience in the Fire Department, I've seen the devastation wreaked on houses by fires. I went to make all houses safe. With my experience I bring an asset to people in initiating procedures which can be helping in fire prevention. An example is the fire detector law, which I played a major role in getting passed. Electrical wiring is one of the main problems in home fires. Through stricter building code enforcement many lives can be saved."

EDWIN JOHNSON

Edwin Johnson is a former assembly line worker at GM's Broening Highway manufacturing plant. He was an unsuccessful candidate for the House of Delegates in last year's election. Due to his strong showing, he was appointed to fill Nathan Irby's seat in the City Council. On the issues: "The future of the next generation is the most important issue, along with education. The next generation is only 17 years away from a new century, and they must be prepared for new careers. We must educate our youth to think about careers, instead of just getting a job.

"Economic development is also an issue, but this is still based on education. We need to keep dollars in the community.

"I can relate well to the heads of city agencies and other councilmen. A councilman does not have that much real power, so to get things done you must be able to get along with other people, to get services of the community.

"Although I've been in the council only a short time, I've denomstrated that I am accessible to the people of the district."

PAULA JOHNSON

Paula Johnson is an Intake Specialist at the Kirk Multi-purpose Center, Mayor' Office. In 1982 Ms. Johnson was elected to the State Central Committee for the 45th Legislative District.

On the issues:

"Sixty percent of the voters are women, and many of them are single parent heads of households, as I am. Recent Census Reports have highlighted the particular problems which black female heads of households have. Most particularly, these families tend to have very low incomes. We need more programs to address the problems of female-headed households. There is a need for job training and more adequate housing for these families. As a woman, and mother of two teenaged sons, I feel I can relate to these issues better than some candidates can. I am making a special appeal to women to vote for their own best interest, by electing me to the City Council."

NATHANIEL Mc FADDEN

McFadden is a Social Studies teacher in the Baltimore City School System and Principal of the Dunbar High Evening School. He was appointed to the City Council to fill the vacancy created by Du Burn's promotion to City Council President. In 1982 McFadden was elected to the State Central Committee for the 45th Legislative District.

On the issues: "Jobs and economic development are key issues in the district. However, with the major cutbacks in federal funds made by the Reagan Administration they are extremely tough issues for the council to deal with. The key is to find innovative means of deriving solutions to the problem. It is not enough to have ideas, you must also have the skills to get nine other of your colleagues to go along with your chosen remedy. During the redistricting battle I demonstrated clearly that I have both the skill to develop new ideas, and to get them passed by the council. In the next four years I will be able to accomplish more for the residents of the district. One of the things I propose to do is establish a Community Advisory Council to assist me in identifying problems and to develop potential solutions."

JACQUELINE McLEAN

Ms. McLean is a businesswoman, the owner of a travel agency, with her husband. This is her first attempt to win an elected office. Recent finance reports showed she had raised and spent more money than any other 2nd District candidate.

On the issues: "As I would pick up the newspaper, or attend Monday night council meetings, I found none of us in the district really had a say in what was going on. No one asked out our opinions on the major issues. The least someone could do, once elected to the council, is to ask the people in the neighborhoods their opinion when major issues arise. As I move around the district the most documents I get, other than questions about jobs, are "I can never get a hold of my councilman," or "I guess since it is an election year I will get to see who my councilman is" The City Council is like a business. If you don't stay in contact with with your constituents, your customers, you won't know their needs.

As a councilperson I will give 100 percent of my time, and 1000 percent of me to the people of the district."

RALPH MOORE

Moore is on leave from his position as the Director of St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. In 1982, he gained national prominence when he rebutted Mayor Schaefer's praise for the revitalization of Baltimore on the ABC News program "Nightline." This is Moore's first attempt to win a public office. On the issues: "Employment is the main issue in the district. Without a job, there isn't much that can be done about many other pressing issues facing the people. With full employment we can mostly take care of many of our housing, feeding, health care, and to a degree, our education problems.

"Education is a major issue also. We've got a 60 percent unemployment rate among black youths. Seeing those who've graduated without a job, has to be discouraging to those youths we are encouraging to stay in school.

"Urban leaders have to aggressively speak to the issue of re-directing national priorities. President Reagan's aim to increase defense spending by 1.2 trillion dollars takes away money for desperately needed people programs.

EUGENE MURPHY

Murphy is a businessman and the owner of a restaurant. He is running for public office for the first time. While not taking a stand in the mayor's race Murphy obviously hopes to capitalize on Billy Murphy's candidacy by fielding his own council candidates ticket under a the banner heading "The Murphy Team": On the issues: "Recreation facilities, shopsteading programs, and feeding programs are important to the district. We need school breakfast programs. We must feed our young minds, before they can learn. "Jobs will be one of my main projects. I will work to get the mayor to give me some of those jobs for the people of the community.

"I want to get Du Burns elected.

"We have to work hard to bring the issues to the people, so they can know what is going on."

ANTONIO SMITH

Smith is the legislative aide for the 45th District. In 1979 he ran unsuccessfully for a City Council seat in the 5th District. On the issues: "The people of the 2nd District are used to having full-time council representation. I will be a full-time councilman. My background in casework, community action, and legislative work in Annapolis, and on the staff of Congressman Mitchell, lends itself to me being a good-councilman.

"It is time for the younger people to be elected to office, because they will have this time to develop. Persons in their 40s and 50s only have a few years of service to give. We need to develop future leadership."

CARL STOKES

Stokes is the owner of a boy's clothing store Mondawmin Mall. This election is his first try for public office. On the issues: "Constituent services are the most important issue. Some members of the council feel it is the council's place to discuss the great issues of the day, such as nuclear disarmament, which doesn't have an immediate impact on the day-to-day lives of the city's residents. However, 80 percent of a councilman's job is meeting the immediate needs of his or her constituents.

"Coalition politics is important in a multi-racial setting like Baltimore. Our bi-racial coalition ticket represents the racial composition of our district. To be an effective legislator also requires an ability to coalesce with others. Out ticket is a reflection of our philosophy."

The other 2nd District candidates are: Helen Alford, Joseph Archer, Annie Rodgers Chambers, Henri Daniels, Adrian Dantzler, Titus Garnett Jr., Fatella Giles; Oscar Mayers III, Alan Ogden, Wanda Prince, and Leon Purnell.