

COLLEGE WINS BY LANDSLIDE

17-1 Vote Cast For Proposal

All Precincts Favor Community College For Burke County

Burke County citizens voted overwhelmingly Saturday for the establishment of a comprehensive community college.

Piling up an unprecedented ratio of 17-to-1 in authorizing a bond issue, supporters of a college for Burke carried all 38 precincts in the county.

Complete but unofficial returns showed the vote on a million dollar bond issue was 8,942 for, with 540 against.

The second issue of a two-part proposal on the ballot showed 8,865 cast in favor of local support for a college from a tax levy not to exceed five cents per \$100 property valuation, with 586 against.

An election night tabulation by the board of elections showed 9,482 votes cast in the bond issue, with the college receiving 94.3 per cent of the total, and 9,451 ballots cast on the tax question, with the college favored by 93.8 per cent of the voters.

The margin of support of 17-to-1 and 15-to-1 virtually doubled any other county's record in a community college election.

Four other counties have approved community colleges by ratios ranging from 4-to-1 upward to 7 or 8-to-1.

When notified of the results Saturday night at his home in Raleigh, Dr. I. E. Ready, director of the Department of Community Colleges, said Burke had scored "the highest majority so far."

"My heartiest congratulations to the people of Burke County," said the top administrative officer for the State's community

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ty college system. "We will be looking forward to working with you."

Dr. W. Dallas Herring of Rose Hill, chairman of the State Board of Education, said, "I congratulate the people of Burke County and I look forward to working with them on a wonderful new program that will help in many ways."

John M. Reynolds of Asheville, member of the State Board of Education and chairman of its committee on community colleges, admitted he was surprised at the overwhelming vote. "This is fantastic," he declared when he learned of the sweeping results. "I have never heard of such a thing."

Reynolds, who recently visited in Burke County to discuss the comprehensive nature of the new colleges, said "I am delighted for your county. . . . With this great display of public support, an able board of trustees and a top man as president of the college will be able to establish an institution which will have limitless possibilities of service to your area."

Best wishes came from other prominent Tar Heels who have watched the community college movement take shape.

Among them is Irving E. Carley, Winston-Salem attorney who was chairman of the Governor's Commission on Education Beyond the High School, which recommended the community college program. "My congratulations and best wishes to Burke County," he said upon hearing the result of the special election.

The size of the vote exceeded predictions by some political observers who thought 6,000 to 8,000 would be a large turnout for a special election in which no personalities were involved as candidates.

The total of 9,482 ballots cast Saturday were well over two and a half times the vote cast in the "little federal" amendment election January 14 when Burke accounted for a turnout of 3,314 voters.

Two uptown precincts in Morganton topped the voting, Morganton No. 4, voting at the high school, led with a total of 924 ballots, followed by Morganton No. 1, voting at the old grammar school on Avery Avenue, with a total of 709 ballots.

The Salem community—Morganton township precinct No. 7—was third, with 584 voting, closely followed by the Oak Hill community—Quaker Meadows No. 1—with 567.

Observers said it's rare to find all 38 precincts in agreement on any public issue, but the college proposal made a clean sweep. Three precincts reported not a single vote against it.

Dr. E. W. Phifer Jr., chairman of the county-wide steering committee, looked over the returns on election night and said: "To me, these figures represent a great victory for public education in Burke County, and should serve as a springboard for improved educational facilities at all levels."

"These returns also indicate that there are a great number of people in our county who are progressive, unselfish and willing to give of their time, their energy, their talent and their tax money, if necessary, in order that benefits may accrue to someone other than themselves."

Continuing, Dr. Phifer said: "These are the people that those in authority must not fail, for they have pinned their hopes in this college—the hopes of their children and their children's children. They must not be disillusioned or disappointed. We must push forward to make this school the finest of its kind in North Carolina."

"On behalf of the steering committee I wish to thank everyone who has worked so untiringly at the polls."

Dr. Phifer said the next step is for the appointment of a board of trustees.

Under procedure outlined by the Department of Community Colleges, the steering committee will call a meeting of the official board responsible for naming members to the college board and will formally notify them of their duties.

Dr. Phifer said he hoped such a meeting can be held this week, after which the boards will begin picking trustees.

Under the law, four trustees are to be named by the board of county commissioners. Four will be appointed by the three school boards in the county. Four will be appointed by the governor.

When the twelve seats have been filled, the trustees will meet to organize, take steps to obtain a charter for the college, pick a president, then select an architect and begin work on the acquisition of a site and planning buildings.

The outcome of the election was not long in doubt after the polls closed at 6:30 p.m. In less than two hours, all votes were reported, tallied and totalled.

Typical of the tempo in which returns were reported to Carl P. Giles, chairman of the board of elections who was at The News-Herald office, eight precincts had reported their vote count by 6:45, beginning with Morganton No. 2 at 6:32 p.m., and reporting in about this order: Icard No. 4, Silver Creek No. 3, Lower Fork No. 1, Linville No. 3, Lovelady No. 1, Drexel No. 1, and Morganton No. 8.

The others poured in "quick succession."

Chairman Giles said an official canvass of the results will be made Tuesday by the election board.

How Burke Voted

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Bonds

Tax

PRECINCT	For	Against	For	Against
Drexel No. 1	172	11	169	14
Drexel No. 2	211	11	198	20
Drexel No. 3	78	4	77	5
Drexel No. 4	190	15	183	16
Icard No. 1	74	39	73	42
Icard No. 2	78	27	78	27
Icard No. 3	113	81	108	76
Icard No. 4	72	31	72	31
Icard No. 5	71	37	67	40
Jonas Ridge	40	0	39	0
Linville No. 1	57	9	57	9
Linville No. 2	102	1	98	3
Lovelady No. 1	201	9	197	13
Lovelady No. 2	196	46	196	46
Lovelady No. 3	226	15	225	18
Lovelady No. 4	121	26	120	28
Lovelady No. 5	71	29	68	32
Lower Creek	182	7	182	8
Lower Fork No. 1	72	15	72	15
Lower Fork No. 2	95	0	95	0
Morganton No. 1	701	8	701	8
Morganton No. 2	273	10	273	10
Morganton No. 3	348	4	344	6
Morganton No. 4	906	18	900	24
Morganton No. 5	381	13	381	13
Morganton No. 6	394	12	394	13
Morganton No. 7	579	5	577	5
Morganton No. 8	369	20	360	24
Morganton No. 9	435	6	432	8
Morganton No. 10	285	4	285	4
Quaker Meadows No. 1	560	7	557	8
Quaker Meadows No. 2	96	6	96	6
Silver Creek No. 1	415	3	415	3
Silver Creek No. 2	213	3	213	3
Silver Creek No. 3	241	1	241	1
Smoky Creek	36	0	36	0
Upper Creek	104	2	102	2
Upper Fork	184	5	184	5
TOTAL	8942	540	8865	586



VOTING FOR COLLEGE—J. Gordon Queen, veteran columnist and dean of The News-Herald staff who is convalescing at home from a hip fracture, accepted a county-wide offer of free ambulance rides to go to the polls in Saturday's special election on a comprehensive community college. He and Mrs. Queen are shown marking their ballots at Morganton High School, polling place for

Morganton precinct No. 3. Looking on at the left is Jack Abree, Sossoman ambulance attendant. At the right are Mrs. Cecil Saunders and Mrs. Sid Dellinger, election judges, and W. K. Keeter, registrar. Shortly after the photo was made, Mrs. Saunders' husband, a patient at Grace Hospital, drove up in a Kirksey ambulance to cast his ballot for the college. (Staff photo by J. W. Long).