



DON'T FORGET TO

VOTE

TUESDAY

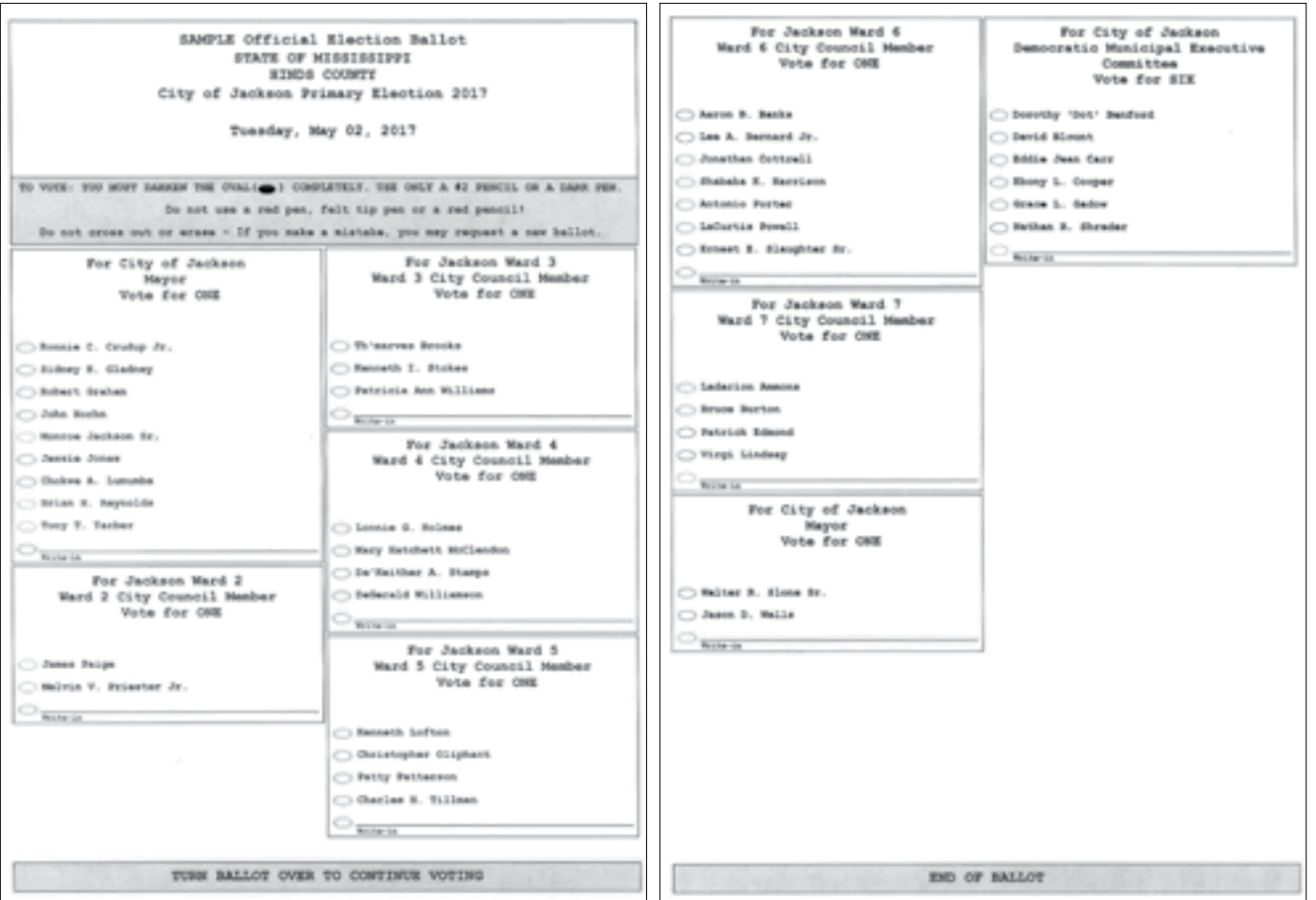
MAY 2

7AM - 7PM

Next week...you decide

May 2 Municipal Elections

Wards 6 residents looking for someone new to represent South Jackson



Ward 6 Council candidates engage in forum.

By **Stephanie R. Jones**
Contributing Writer

When voters in City Council Ward 6 go to the polls Tuesday they will elect someone new to represent their area of South Jackson since their current councilman is not seeking reelection.

Ward 6 residents heard Monday evening from four of the seven candidates in the running to replace Councilman Tyrone Hendrix. Candidates attending a forum at Apostolic Restoration Ministry on McDowell Road included Lee A. Bernard Jr., Jonathan Cottrell, Shabaka Harrison and Rev. Ernest Slaughter Sr. Absent were candidates Aaron Banks, Antonio Porter and Lacurtis Powell.

Hendrix called the forum, attended by about 80 people, "a very important

process in choosing our next representative."

Moderator Othor Cain said "city council races are, in my mind, more important than the mayor's race" because of the connectivity council members have to the communities they serve.

With questions of his own and others from the audience Cain cut to the chase asking candidates for responses on redistricting efforts, understanding of how city government operates and understanding of the city's budget.

Candidates were asked if they supported a redistricting of city wards in 2020 to make them more compact and to assure two wards remain in South Jackson. There are now four wards

Ward 6
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By **Othor Cain**
Editor

This week is the home stretch for candidates running in municipal elections across the state. Voters will go to the polls, Tuesday, May 2, and cast ballots.

In Jackson, nine Democrats and two Republicans will appear on the ballot for mayor, while several are vying for council races and party committee seats.

Tony Yarber, the incumbent mayor, faces, according to polls, four major contenders: New Horizon Ministries

Executive Director Ronnie Crudup Jr., Hinds County Supervisor Robert Graham, State Senator John Horhn and Attorney Chokwe Antar Lumumba; and four second tier candidates: Sidney Gladney, Monroe Jackson, Jessie Jones and Brian Reynolds for the Democratic nomination for mayor. There are two Republican candidates Walter Stone and Jason Wells.

Chances are a runoff election will be necessary and that will take place Tuesday, May 16. The general election is in June.

All city council seats are up for grabs and we know for sure of the seven wards, two of them (6/7) will have new representatives as the incumbents decided not to seek reelection.

Tough decisions will have to be made starting July 1 when the next administration is seated.

If you're still undecided at this point, you have one last opportunity to see all of the candidates together at the League of Women Voters' forum Friday, April 28, 6 p.m. at the Mississippi College School of Law.

Hinds DA attends National Prosecutors Summit



Hinds County DA Robert Shuler Smith, third from right.

The *Mississippi Link* Newswire

Hinds County District attorney Robert Shuler Smith was invited to attend the 2017 urban elected prosecutors summit, which was held in Atlanta, Georgia April 19-21, 2017. The meeting featured approximately 24 of the most influential African-American elected prosecutors in the United States.

The summit also featured Pulitzer prize journalists from the *Washington Post*, law enforcement officials, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, and other prominent leaders.

Smith was personally invited by District Attorneys Paul Howard and Kimberly Worthy, Atlanta and Detroit district attorneys, respectively.

Smith said that he was delighted

to join the select number of elected officials to discuss the urban agenda. "It is critical for like-minded leaders to mobilize and discuss issues that particularly affect African-American leaders and urban America. One of the most important issues throughout this country is the challenge we face as minority prosecutors in the criminal justice system. Numerous discussions were held on moving forward in implementing best practices that will enhance public safety, and dispel many of the myths attributed to prosecutors," said Shuler Smith.

The summit also featured a luncheon award ceremony to celebrate Congressman John Lewis, who received the Fulton County District Attorney's Office Headlight Award.

Business Ministerial Alliance rallies for peace, justice and prevention

By **Janice K. Neal-Vincent**
Contributing Writer

The Save-A-Lot Corner at McDowell and Suncrest became a hotspot for Business Ministerial Alliance of Mississippi (BMA) as they rallied against senseless killings of youths April 24.

Along with the 100 Concerned Clergy of Jackson and Heal the City Coalition, the Alliance came boldly before several hundred residents in defiance of apathy and complacency. Their stance positively appealed to men in the community to actively hold youth accountable for committing violence. They devoted special attention to the recent killing of the 17-year-old youth who was murdered on Ventura Dr. in South Jackson.

Organizers emphasized that a good community is one that does not abuse its members, but protects and cares for them.

"We have to protect our babies. We need to take a stronger stand. The black community is the only community that



Chief Lee Vance called for straying youth to clean up their lives and to get an education. PHOTO BY JANICE K. NEAL-VINCENT

destroys each other. We've got to wake up as a culture. We've got to teach our babies about the Lord. We've given up on our children. We haven't decided to give our children to the Lord," said Martez Hopkins of Knowledge Camp University.

Chief Lee Vance called for driving drugs and guns out of the community. "A lot of our 14, 15, 16 and 17-year-old kids are lighting up on wet [dope]."

Rally
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