

## Reynolds and Watson butt heads for bucks, as other races begin

Top contributors, page 2

### Generous Lawyers

Based on contributions of \$100 or more to the two leading mayoral candidates, Kirk Watson got more money from the Central Texas Zip codes (786, 787) and other areas:

| Candidate | Central Texas | Other Areas |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| Reynolds  | \$128,707     | \$15,050    |
| Watson    | \$188,577     | \$73,750    |

Watson's advantage is totally due to the generosity of lawyers, who chipped in massively:

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Total lawyer donations | \$166,055 |
| Out-of-town lawyers    | \$62,775  |

Mayoral candidates **Ronney Reynolds** and **Kirk Watson** are hip deep in dollars, and hope to be up to their ears before voters trudge to the polls May 4. Plaintiff's attorney Watson roared by incumbent council member Reynolds by sucking up \$5,000 contributions from Houston attorney **Larry Boyd**, Austin investor **Tom Farrell**, Austin attorney **Vic Feazell**, Austin attorney **Tommy Jacks**, Austin engineer **Bob Jones**, Austin political consultant **Jack Martin**, Austin attorney **Mark Mueller**, Austin **Bobby Ross Group** CEO **Bobby Ross**, Austin attorney **John Scanlan**, Austin attorney **Ben Vaughn**, and Houston attorney **John Williams**.

By contrast, Reynolds' largest donors were Austin law firm **Drenner & Stuart** at \$5,000, Burnet investor **Frank Fickett** at \$4,000, Austin property manager **M.H. Crockett** at \$3,000, and Austin investor **D.J. Sibley** at \$3,000. Watson countered these with an army of \$2,500 contributors as well, including Dallas attorney **Jack Ayres**, Austin law firm **Calame Linebarger Graham & Pena**, Austin law firm **Chester & Allen**, Houston attorney **Wayne Fisher**, Austin law firm **Hilgers & Watkins**, Fort Worth attorney **Darryl Keith**, Austin political consultant **Mark McKinnon**, Austin investment advisor **Walt Penn**, Austin law firm **Ragland & Coates**, Austin attorney **Tim Sims**, Austin law firm **Vinson & Elkins Political**

**Action Committee**, and Austin attorney **Mary Wolf**. Reynolds had only a single contributor at the \$2,500 level, **John McCall**, owner of **Armstrong McCall Beauty Supplies**. While Reynolds' coffers carried over \$50,000 from the previous year, putting the two candidates roughly even in total cash, unless Reynolds can pick up the fund-raising pace, Watson's friends in deep-pocketed law firms are going to bury Reynolds in dump trucks full of dollars. On the other hand, Reynolds, with more than five years on the council, is far better known than Watson. Reynolds has an edge in having run three previous council races.

The Place 2 race pits mayor pro tem **Gus Garcia** against **Becky Motal**, a financial manager for the **Lower Colorado River Authority**. In her first time out, Motal pulled 45 percent of the vote against incumbent **Jackie Goodman** in the 1996 council race. But this time around she faces an even stronger incumbent in Garcia. While he is running in Place 2—not the Place 5 seat he currently occupies—the distinction means nil at the polls, where council members are elected at large. Motal has raised \$11,560 in this reporting period, and is far behind the \$22,505 pace she set for herself against Goodman a year ago. And

### Mayoral Candidates Hustle Dollars

|                       | Total Cash*<br>Contributions | Total<br>Loans | Number of<br>Contributions | Average<br>Contribution |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Mayor</b>          |                              |                |                            |                         |
| Jennifer Gale         | \$3                          | 0              | N/A                        | N/A                     |
| Max Nofziger          | \$200                        | 0              | N/A                        | N/A                     |
| Ronney Reynolds**     | \$149,894                    | 0              | 322                        | \$466                   |
| Kirk Watson           | \$273,010                    | 0              | 829                        | \$329                   |
| <b>TOTALS MAYOR</b>   | <b>\$423,107</b>             | <b>0</b>       | <b>1,151</b>               | <b>\$368</b>            |
| <b>Place 2</b>        |                              |                |                            |                         |
| Gus Garcia            | \$25,075                     | 0              | 145                        | \$173                   |
| Becky Motal           | \$11,560                     | 0              | 65                         | \$178                   |
| <b>TOTALS PLACE 2</b> | <b>\$36,635</b>              | <b>0</b>       | <b>210</b>                 | <b>\$174</b>            |
| <b>Place 5</b>        |                              |                |                            |                         |
| Karen Hadden          | \$200                        | 0              | 2                          | \$100                   |
| Tom Guerrero          | Didn't File                  |                |                            |                         |
| Gus Peña              | Didn't File                  |                |                            |                         |
| Manuel Zuniga         | \$11,760                     | \$7,000        | 38                         | \$309                   |
| <b>TOTALS PLACE 5</b> | <b>\$11,960</b>              | <b>\$7,000</b> | <b>40</b>                  | <b>\$299</b>            |
| <b>Place 6</b>        |                              |                |                            |                         |
| Eric Mitchell         | \$33,458                     | 0              | 163                        | \$205                   |
| John Goode            | Didn't File                  |                |                            |                         |
| <b>TOTALS PLACE 6</b> | <b>\$33,458</b>              | <b>0</b>       | <b>163</b>                 | <b>\$205</b>            |
| <b>GRAND TOTALS</b>   | <b>\$505,160</b>             | <b>\$7,000</b> | <b>1,564</b>               | <b>\$323</b>            |

Notes: \* Not including in-kind gifts: Reynolds \$950, Watson \$30,160.

\*\* Does not include cash from 1995, of \$50,000 after expenses.

Source: Contribution and Expenditure Reports filed by candidates

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**Top \$\$ Individuals**

Those who gave \$2,500 or more in the report ending Jan. 15 were:

|                       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Balie Griffith        | \$10,000 |
| Beverly Griffith      | \$10,000 |
| Sanford Gottesman     | \$7,000  |
| Manuel Zuniga (loans) | \$7,000  |
| Richard Hill          | \$6,000  |
| Larry Boyd            | \$5,000  |
| Tom Farrell           | \$5,000  |
| Vic Fezell            | \$5,000  |
| Bobby Ross            | \$5,000  |
| Bob Jones             | \$5,000  |
| Jack Martin           | \$5,000  |
| Mark Mueller          | \$5,000  |
| John Scanlan          | \$5,000  |
| Ben Vaughn            | \$5,000  |
| John Williams         | \$5,000  |
| Gary Farmer           | \$4,000  |
| Frank Fickett         | \$4,000  |
| D.J. Sibley           | \$3,450  |
| M.H. Crockett         | \$3,000  |
| Bob Gregory           | \$3,000  |
| Wayne Fisher          | \$2,500  |
| Darryl Keith          | \$2,500  |
| John McCall           | \$2,500  |
| Mark McKinnon         | \$2,500  |
| Bryce Miller          | \$2,500  |
| Charles Morrison      | \$2,500  |
| Walt Penn             | \$2,500  |
| Tim Sims              | \$2,500  |
| Mike Voticky          | \$2,500  |
| Mary Wolf             | \$2,500  |

**Top \$\$ Firms, PACs**

Those who gave \$2,500 or more in the report ending Jan. 15 were:

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Vinson & Elkins PAC       | \$5,250 |
| BM&OH Electo-PAC          | \$5,000 |
| Drenner & Stuart          | \$5,000 |
| Tommy Jacks, P.C.         | \$5,000 |
| Bury & Pittman            | \$4,250 |
| Fulbright & Jaworski PAC  | \$4,000 |
| Texas Horizons PAC        | \$4,000 |
| Hilgers & Watson          | \$3,875 |
| Page Southerland Page     | \$3,500 |
| Colbert Freeman Stribling | \$3,000 |
| Turner Collie Braden PAC  | \$3,000 |
| W&G Partnership           | \$3,000 |
| Calame Linebarger et al   | \$2,500 |
| Chester & Allen           | \$2,500 |
| Pepsico PAC               | \$2,500 |
| Ragland & Coates          | \$2,500 |
| Slack & Davis             | \$2,500 |

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it's less than half what Garcia collected. If she doesn't shift into high gear quickly, Motal is going to look like the political equivalent of road kill.

In Place 5, school teacher **Karen Hadden** is a recent entry against millionaire businessman **Manuel Zuniga**, who netted 25 percent of the Place 1 vote in 1996 to place third, just a couple of points behind attorney **Jeff Hart**. Former politics writer **Daryl Slusher** beat Hart in the runoff. Zuniga is employing the same consultants, **McKinley Smith & Seales**, and has beefed up support in the barrio. More than 100 Hispanic community leaders were to gather at his house tonight (Jan. 22). Zuniga's biggest liability is that to win, Austin voters will have to elect minority members to all three council seats. (This assumes Garcia prevails over Motal and Place 6 incumbent **Eric Mitchell** wins again.) Also considering this race is **Bill Spelman**, a tenured associate professor at UT's **LBJ School of Public Affairs**.

At present, Mitchell looks unbeatable. Only restaurateur **John Goode** has filed to run against him. As reported by *In Fact* No. 76, Goode is hobbled by business woes, including federal tax liens, and overdue child support. Further research this week reveals Goode was three times charged with theft by checks of \$20 to \$200. The warrant was recalled after the first instance in 1986. He made restitution and attended a required class for the second offense in 1990. He made restitution and attended a multiple offender's class for the third offense in 1994. **Willie Lewis**, who is retired from both the **U.S. Air Force** and **Lockheed Austin**, has been trying to find a political consultant. He hopes to run against Mitchell. With only 15 weeks before election day, Lewis faces nearly impossible odds to beat the incumbent.

Mitchell continues to ignore the reporting requirements of the **Texas Election Code**. His July 15 report repeats the same glaring mistakes that were evident in his Jan. 15 report. In the previous instance, he also failed to promptly correct the errors after being notified that the report violated both state law and a city ordinance. *In Fact* No. 53 quoted verbatim his e-mail refusal to correct the report. That triggered a critical story by the *Austin American-Statesman* as well. Mitchell's latest report lists 163 individual contributors, but shows no addresses, and no occupations for the contributors of \$250 or more. Additional sheets of names and addresses, some with occupations, were attached to the initial report filed Jan. 15, and others were in a "corrected" report filed Jan. 16. Mitchell did not respond to a phone call and e-mail inquiry about discrepancies in the latest report. **Karen Lundquist**, general counsel for the **Texas Ethics Commission**, says Mitchell's report does not comply with the state statute. "Each campaign finance report filed according to state law must be on a form prescribed by the commission," Lundquist says. She says that addresses of contributors are supposed to be listed along with the contribution amounts. "If it's on a computer printout, the printout must conform to the same format...as the form prescribed by the commission," she says. If a sworn complaint were filed with the commission, Lundquist says, the commission could determine whether there was a violation and, if so, whether it warrants a civil penalty. ✪

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**Moore predicts city will quit business of generating electricity****Could happen in 10-15 years**

On Jan. 15, **Electric Utility Department** director **John Moore** briefed the **Resource Management Commission** on his vision of the future. The utility's mission is to "meet customer needs at a price that's acceptable and make as much money as we can," Moore said. Energy conservation is at odds with that now, but "in the future, over time, we would phase out of owning generation. If we don't own generation, the tension between short-term and long-term (goals) tend to disappear," he said. He described the electric "bill of the future," based on the belief that transmission and distribution of electricity will remain a profitable, regulated monopoly. Bills could be changed to allow a flat-rate monthly charge for those services. "The only per-kilowatt-hour charge would be wheeling charges for distributing someone's power," he said. Moore said the city could be out of the generation business in 10-15 years. That would open up customer choices for conservation as well, with options to buy solar, wind or hydroelectric power. At the same meeting, **Roger Duncan**, director of **Planning, Environment and Conservation Services**, said that once the city gets rid of the debt by paying off generation facilities, it could focus on protecting air quality with a package designed to cut electric consumption, thus reducing dangerous "greenhouse gas" emissions from power plants. That's crucial as Austin edges toward nonattainment. Austin saw carbon dioxide emissions of seven tons a year in 1990, he said, and will hit 16 tons per year by 2010 unless drastic corrective action is taken. ✱

**Campbell hired to run Kirk Watson campaign****Former district director for congressman Jim Chapman**

If mayoral candidates **Kirk Watson** and **Ronney Reynolds** were army generals in the civil war they'd be as different as **Ulysses S. Grant** and **Robert E. Lee**. Reynolds, who has run three times for city council, winning the last two, is saving his powder, or its modern equivalent of cash, by still not employing consultants. He says an announcement is eminent on that score. Watson, who was unopposed in his election as chairman of the **Travis County Democratic Party**, has built a local political machine of battle-seasoned troops. Besides the Austin trio of strategist **David Butts**, financier **Alfred Stanley** and media guru **Dean Rindy**, Watson is using a veteran Washington, D.C.-based pollster, **Anna Bennett** of **Bennett Petts & Blumenthal**. His latest hire is campaign manager **Jim Campbell**, who's set up in the campaign headquarters opened last month at 1011 San Jacinto (478-1000). Campbell is a former district director for U.S. representative **Jim Chapman**, D-Sulfur Springs. After Chapman was first elected in 1985, Campbell ran his subsequent reelection campaigns, as well as his unsuccessful attempt to win the Democratic Party's 1996 nomination to oppose U.S. senator **Phil Gramm**, R-College Station. Campbell brings unusual skills. For three of the last five years, he has stayed home to rear children. But he's no stranger to Austin politics. He joined the heated 1994 fight over Proposition 22 by co-founding **Faiths United for Religious & Social Tolerance** (FURST), "to be another voice in the religious community besides the religious right," Campbell says. Voters rolled back insurance benefits for unmarried partners that the city council had granted. FURST has since been folded into the **Texas Faith Network**, an arm of **Texas Freedom Network**. The goal: "To be a voice in the Democratic Party and progressive politics from a position of faith." Campbell's key help is campaign coordinator **Chris Lippincott**. ✱

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