



TIMES-GEORGIAN

CARROLL COUNTY'S TRUSTED INFORMATION LEADER SINCE 1871

Parties worry about stolen election

By P. Boan
Times-Georgian

On the right of the spectrum are voter fraud in and those on the left are fearful of voter

suppression efforts locally and statewide.

But according to a Carroll County election official and a University of West Georgia professor of political science, neither side has legitimate need to worry about a stolen

election. Dr. Stanley Caress said registration fraud is largely innocuous in itself, and voter fraud is rarely so widespread in modern elections as to change the ultimate results. While there was general concern when the

country changed from paper balloting to electronic voting machines, he said, worries of a stolen election this year are mostly imaginary.

"Usually the margin of victory is large enough that fraud is a non issue," Caress said.

"With voter registration fraud it is actually a much easier process than voter fraud is. It's much more difficult once they're at the poll to have a fraudulent effort at the polls

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EVERYTHING PUMPKIN



Michelle Lepianka/Times-Georgian

...watches as his daughter Kaili, 4, paints a pumpkin on Thursday along with his e-K classmate Marquen Williams in Kasheen Hudson's class at Sand Hill Elementary. Fathers, grandfathers and other significant male relatives of students in the class were invited to eat breakfast with the children at school and then participate in a variety of pumpkin-theme projects. The event was to foster male involvement in their children's lives.

An election of historical significance

UWG professor: Presidential race could change American politics

By Laura Camper
The Times-Georgian

Record numbers of Americans are voting in early elections across the state and the country and this election has the potential to change the American political scene for quite some time to come, University of West Georgia Assistant Professor Dr. Dan Williams said Friday.

"This (presidential) election is already significant," Williams said, speaking at Ingram Library on the UWG campus. "It's the first in which either party has nominated an African-American. This is the first (presidential) election the Republican Party has put a woman on its ticket. It's also the first election since 1952 when neither party has nominated either the incumbent president or a vice president."

Beyond that, the election may be reflecting a change in attitude toward government by voters.

Since at least 1980, when then-President Ronald Reagan began his administration on a platform that taxation should be low and the government's role in social services should be small, the country has operated under the idea of lean government social ser-

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eliminate voters from the rolls," said Ray Harris, treasurer of the Carroll County Democratic Party. "The theory is that the more people we have to vote, the more likely we are to elect Democrats."

Harris said Handel, a Republican, has submitted 2 million names of registered voters to the U.S. Social Security Administration in hopes the agency can find some discrepancy between each voter's registered address with Social

said she was hesitant to cast an early ballot because it might be lost.

"I for one was afraid to vote early because I thought my vote was going to get lost or something," Coats said. "Look what happened in Florida. I was thinking because I voted early, I wasn't comfortable. I was afraid maybe there was some way they could erase it or just overlook it."

But Carroll County Elections Supervisor Patti Brown-Traylor

cerned about just the opposite. The threat of widespread voter registration fraud has many on the right crying foul, insisting voter fraud may taint the election, even before a single ballot is counted.

Their concern is chiefly rooted in regards to swing states like Florida and Ohio, where the last two presidential elections have been called into question.

Terry Agne, chairman of the Carroll County Republican Party and a volunteer for

worry about the fraud issue because there's nothing more important than what happens at the ballot box. I'm always skeptical when people are paid to register voters," Beck said. "My background is such that I'm more comfortable when you have people who are volunteers that are not doing it for pay, but organizations like ACORN where canvassers are paid with how many registrations they get, that sounds ripe for manipulation."

Kimble Duke

Kimble Jackson Duke, 50, of Log Cabin Road, Whitesburg, died Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008.

Mr. Duke was born Dec. 4, 1957, in Carrollton, the son of the late Jack Edward Duke and the late Mrs. Reba Clarice McClendon Duke. He worked as a heavy equipment operator.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Barbara Gail Black Duke of Oxford, Ala.; his sons and daughters-in-law, Johnny and April Duke of Delta, Ala., and Charlie and April Duke of Germany; his half-brother, Ronald Chase of Carrollton; and four grandchildren.

Memorial service and gathering of family and friends for Mr. Duke will be Saturday, Oct. 25, from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. at Banning Church of God in Banning, Georgia.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.jones-wynn.com.

Jones-Wynn Funeral Home of Villa Rica.

Election: West Georgia professor

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vices, he said. Even Democratic President Bill Clinton adopted that philosophy to an extent, ushering in a sweeping Welfare Reform bill in 1996.

However, as the demographics of the country have changed, so have the ideologies of the voters.

Republican nominee John McCain and Democratic nominee Barack Obama are courting a very different America than Reagan did.

As white America has become a smaller majority, the issues

important to minorities are becoming more important. Republicans, who have traditionally held rural and white America's votes, are holding on to a diminishing population, Williams said. The percentage of people living in rural areas is decreasing. Minorities, especially Hispanics, are growing. Hispanics now make up 15 percent of the total population, 9 percent of the voting population, and are projected to rise to 30 percent of the total population within the next couple of decades, he said.

The Great Depression of the

1930s ushered in many of the social programs we now have and today's deteriorating economic conditions are increasing the public's acceptance of those types of programs.

"Over the last couple of months, the last month in particular, Americans have taken a new view of regulation," Williams said. "Early this year, Republicans were very comfortable running on the Reagan message, which is regulation hampers the economy."

However, even Alan Greenspan, former chairman of the Federal Reserve appointed

by Reagan, has recently backed away from his opposition to regulation.

Obama's campaign and potential election also has the potential to change race relations in this country, Williams said. It could create a backlash or it could illustrate white Americans' willingness to overcome race and vote for a black American.

"Part of that I think is because of a new image on the part of Obama," Williams said. "He doesn't represent the '60s generation of civil-rights politics."