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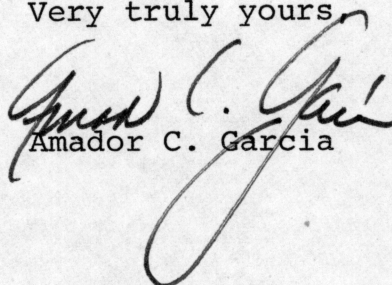
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For your information.

Very truly yours,


Amador C. Garcia

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Enclosure

County Backs Bentsen's Slate

Hidalgo County voters, turning out in fewer numbers than expected, solidly backed native son Sen. Lloyd Bentsen's favorite son presidential bid.

County voters also gave U.S. Rep. Kika de la Garza almost a two-to-one edge in his re-election bid, and returned Tony Garcia to the state legislature in his 593 race. Political newcomer Cullen Looney won the 59A seat.

The two county races which had generated the most interest were those for sheriff and Democratic chairman. Incumbent Sheriff Claudio Castaneda and Brig Marmolejo will tangle in a runoff.

Incumbent Democratic Chairman Morris Atlas managed to survive the strong challenge of Jesse Trevino, winning by 13,235 to 12,861, in a race that was not decided until the absentee vote was counted.

Walter Kelly, who was trying to move up from County Court-at-Law judge to 93rd District Court lost a squeaker to Joe Cisneros by a vote of 13,466 to 12,941.

Art Guerra handily won his bid for the County Court-at-Law judgeship by 17,258 to 6,629 over Ramiro Martinez.

Bentsen delegates Raul Longoria, Bobby Lackey and Mrs. Maria E. Torres received 17,921, 12,283 and 12,053 votes respectively. Jimmy Carter delegates Roy Garcia, Estella Salinas and Scott McLain polled 7,487, 5,688 and 6,513, respectively, and George Wallace delegates Warren E. Reid Jack Mock and Dick Gangee had 2,605, 2,317 and 1,870. The delegate count does not include the absentee ballots.

County voters also overwhelmingly backed Bentsen's bid for re-election to the U.S. Senate, giving him 17,888 votes to nearest challenger Phil Gramm's 5,275.

De la Garza outpolled his challenger Angel Noe Gonzalez by 19,700 to 9,664.

Looney won over Leo Mon-

talvo by 7,552 to 6,224, while Garcia received 5,003 votes to 2,121 for Leo Garza and 1,965 for Lindsey Rodriguez.

Some county voters also cast ballots in the Legislative District 49 race. Incumbent Greg Montoya had 1,351 votes, followed by Santana Gonzalez Jr. with 1,254, Jean Kaufer Hines with 528 and Irma Rangel with 482 in a race which appears destined to end up in a runoff

Incumbent Hidalgo County Precinct One incumbent Raul Gonzalez and challenger Ramiro Cavazos will be matched in a runoff. Gonzalez had 3,602 votes, Cavazos 3,785 and the third candidate, Joe Stephens had 1,321.

Several justice of peace and constable races also ended up in runoffs. In Precinct 3, Place 1, justice of the peace, Arturo Leal

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and Rodolfo Farias will be in a runoff. Leal had 1,542 votes, Farias 1,525, Juan G. Rosel 1,341, San Juanita V. Rutledge 1,120 and Esteban Cantu 222.

In Precinct 3, Place 1, justice of the peace, the runoff will be between Matias Morin Jr. and Cris Quintanilla. Morin had 2,112 votes, Quintanilla 1,896 and Elva G. Jackson 1,318.

In the Precinct One constable race, Gene Foley escaped a runoff by polling 3,452 votes to 2,322 for Joe Lopez and 908 for Camilo Ramos.

In Precinct 2, Genoveno Quintanilla had 3,518 votes, Dan Garza had 3,504 and German Zuniga had 2,031, setting up a runoff between Quintanilla and Garza.

In Precinct 3, Luis Zamora won the constable's job without a runoff. He had 3,281 votes to 1,051 for Transito Vargas and 958 for Buel W. Ward Jr.

One of the more interesting races was for Edinburg constable where Oscar Salazar barely beat A.G. Guzman, who died about a week before the election. Salazar had 2,830 votes to 2,467 for Guzman.

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