



El Paso's new mayor, Tom Westfall, receives applause upon his inauguration.

WESTFALL, OFFICIALS TAKE OFFICE

By Ernie Sotomayor
EPHP 5/16/79

Draped with the stars and stripes of the American flag behind him, Thomas D. Westfall became El Paso's mayor this morning.

In a ceremony opened with the unfurling of the flag and the playing of the "Star Spangled Banner," Westfall, the six elected aldermen, four municipal judges and tax assessor-collector were sworn into office on the Civic Center Theater stage.

MORE THAN 1,000 persons gathered for the inauguration, some holding printed invitations from Westfall, others, like city workers from numerous departments taking time from their duties to witness the new city officials take office.

Westfall, flanked by his wife and two daughters, called for an end to the divisiveness created by the election and urged his new council members to unify.

"There must be no rancor or bitterness," Westfall said.

"THE FOCAL point of this administration will be to fully utilize our resources and our

only major resource is the people. This administration will seek input from the business community, the housewives, the educators, the laborers, people from all walks of life."

Westfall, in his most strongly worded statement, then said, "This administration denounces old tricks which so many have come to view as normal. It denounces cronyism. It denounces political expedience. This administration will judge issues on whether they are right or wrong and not on 'Will this get me re-elected?'"

The swearing-in ceremony, which lasted about an hour, contained some humor and surprises.

ORLANDO FONSECA, elected alderman from the Border District, after being sworn in by Judge Bill Ward, asked the Most Rev. Bishop Patricio Flores for a blessing. The blessing of Fonseca by the bishop was the only such gesture at the inauguration. And before Fonseca returned to his seat, the new alderman's mother was shielding the tears in her eyes.

And Alderman Pat Haggerty of the Northeast District after being sworn in by Justice of the Peace Walter McGee, was dubbed 'The Duke of Dyer Street.' Haggerty, however, appears to be starting his term of office on the wrong foot.

"I was told to come to city hall yesterday to pick out an office and to park in the council's lot, but I got a ticket. I promise to pay,"

ON STAGE with Westfall was Juarez Mayor Manuel Quevedo Reyes who was accompanied by Mexican Consul General Manuel Gallestegui and Gaston de Bayona, director of international relations.

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New Mayor Takes First Actions In Office WESTFALL OPENS TERM

WITH A WARNING

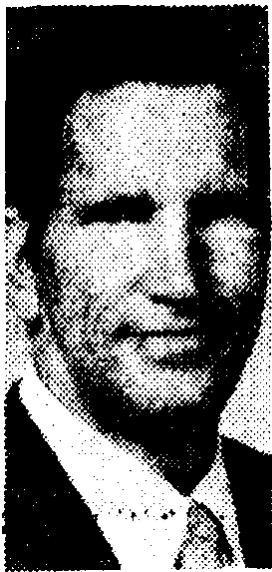
By John Edwards and

Ernie Sotomayor

EPHP 5/17/79

Mayor Tom Westfall today appointed Leon Metz as his executive assistant.

Yesterday, he warned he would not stand for dishonesty, inefficiency or political interference in city government.



Leon Metz possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in city parks today.

Westfall said he will be meeting privately today with city department heads and Aldermen David Escobar and Joe Divis to discuss drinking in parks.

The matter will be on the agenda for the first meeting of the new council next Tuesday.

WESTFALL BLAMED the rabies epidemic in El Paso on the movement of rabid dogs from Ciudad Juarez. ". . . they (rabid dogs) cross over (the river) and we have a problem," he said.

"The fact that our city goes out into a desert, compounds our problem," Westfall said.

Westfall said he wanted to negotiate with investor-owned utilities on rate increases in hopes of avoiding costly appeals to the Texas Public Utility Commission and Texas Railroad Commission.

WESTFALL SAID he favored the continued participation of El Paso Electric Co. in the Palo Verde nuclear power plant project in Arizona, but he declined to take a position on the practice of charging customers for that construction project before Palo Verde begins generating electricity.



Photo by Reuben Ramirez

New Mayor Tom Westfall

Yesterday in the first formal meeting between city department heads, Westfall, in strong terms, announced he would stand for no dishonesty, inefficiency or political interference in the operation of the departments.

"FOR THE NEXT two years," Westfall said, "the city's employees will be totally divorced from politics. There will be no po-

itical pressure placed on the department heads by any of the aldermen.

"If there are any infractions dealing with dishonesty, the 'mordida' system, unauthorized gratuities, or unauthorized trips, there will be action.

"If I catch anyone with his hand in the cookie jar. I'm gonna cut it off."

THE NEW MAYOR sworn in yesterday, promised to keep the aldermen from interfering with the operation of the departments.

"You are the professionals in city government and you will have full authority to run your departments," Westfall told the department heads.

Part of the new administration machinery, Westfall said, will be department head committees composed of five to six department heads. They will hold one-hour weekly conferences, he said.

WESTFALL SAID he has decided on some committees already. He plans to announce committee appointments later this week or early next week.

During his campaign, Westfall opposed closed-door meetings.

Yesterday, asked if he would make the department heads' committee meetings public, Westfall said, "I'm going to have to look at that very closely. If they deal with personnel or the purchase of real estate, they have to be kept closed." Otherwise, Westfall said, he would oppose closed meetings.

FOR THE EMPLOYEES, Westfall promised a "uniform employment recognition program" that would include "service key

awards" for employees with long service with the city.

The program, he said, would include annual departmental dinners to recognize employees.

At the same time, he said, the treatment of the public by the city employes will change.

"CITY EMPLOYEES," he said, "will be courteous, polite and prompt" when dealing with the public. Each department head, Westfall said, will point out which employees in his department work with the public, what the employees' weaknesses are and will design a program to eliminate the weaknesses.

"Within 60 days I want to see a change in the city employees," Westfall said.

"I want to see the same type of treatment as you get from Mountain Bell. They're real good about service.

"YOU WALK INTO Mountain Bell, you get sent to a pretty girl, she asks 'How can I help you?' and pretty soon you completely forget what your problem is."

The new mayor had yet another announcement. In one year, he said, he will appoint a city charter amendment commission which will prepare city charter changes for an election in 1981.

Among the charter amendments, he said, will be a proposal to create a city manager form of government.

METZ, WHO SERVED as election campaign treasurer for Westfall, said he will be taking an unpaid leave of absence from his position as head of the gifts department of the University of Texas at El Paso library.

Mrs. Elite Enriquez, presently an employee of El Paso Natural Gas in the personnel department, will be Westfall's secretary, the new mayor said.

She worked as his secretary while Westfall was assistant agent in charge of the El Paso FBI office.

SHE WILL BE paid \$16,558 yearly.

Westfall said he would not replace Wayne McClintock, press officer for the previous mayor and city council. But, the new mayor said he will eliminate any city public relations positions which are not protected by Civil Service.

Metz has been active in civic affairs, Westfall said, and has served as president of many of the same organizations that Westfall has chaired in the past.

METZ IS PRESIDENT of the Mission Heritage Association of El Paso, vice president of the Western Writers of America and a member of the literary panel of the Texas Committee of Arts and Humanities.

Metz has written several books about the Old West.

Metz was born in Parkersburg, W.Va., where he attended public schools. Metz worked at the old Standard Oil Refinery in El Paso for 15 years. The new assistant was an operator at the refinery, which is now the Chevron refinery, before accepting work with UT-El Paso in 1967.

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MAYOR TOM WESTFALL: A CLEAN CITY WITH HAPPY EMPLOYEES

NEW MAYOR TAKES QUICK CONTROL

By Ed Curda
Times Staff Writer
EPT 5/17/79

Mayor Tom Westfall wasted no time in outlining to city department heads Wednesday a committee system of administrative control to replace department oversight that aldermen had been assuming.

Only three hours after taking the oath of office, Westfall also told the department heads he was holding them responsible for their employees being courteous, polite and prompt with the public, insuring that their workers accept no gratuities on the side and that city employee morale improves markedly in the next two months,

"I want a clean city with happy employees," Westfall told the department supervisor. He warned he will tolerate no dishonesty, "mordida system, or unauthorized fringe benefits" among city workers. "If I catch anybody with their hand in the cookie jar, I'll cut it off," he said.

In the last weeks of his campaign, Westfall said he found morale among city employees poor and the way they treat the public less than desirable.

"In 60 days, I want to see morale go right through the ceiling," he said. "And when

people walk into City Hall, they ought to be treated like they are at Mountain Bell . . . Public perception of city employees now is not one of efficient workers responsive to public needs."

"It will be your responsibility to enact a training program for employees who meet the public," Westfall said, ". . . and to pinpoint and correct any problems, And we're going to check to see if you're doing it. People will be going into your departments and reporting back to me,"

"Once you teach your employees to be prompt, courteous and cheerful with the public," Westfall said. "their morale will pick up and their day will be made a little bit brighter."

As an example, Westfall said the way to improve morale in the police department is to eliminate "selective enforcement." He said it should make no difference whether a person picked up for drunk driving is from the impoverished Second Ward or is a wealthy industrialist. "If they get picked up for DWI, they get busted," he said. ". . . I don't care if I get re-elected in two years or not. I'm going to be doing things because they are right."

The new mayor said he intended to stick by his campaign promise of eliminating departmental oversight duties delegated to aldermen by custom. He said such delegation of oversight responsibilities may have been necessary when mayors had to run "insurance agencies or multi-million-dollar conglomerates. But I'll be a full-time mayor."

He also said the pressures of single-member districts on the aldermen would make it "difficult for them to resist" putting pressure, on their delegated departments to provide more

services than their districts normally would receive.

"You are the professionals in city management," Westfall told the department heads. "You will be given the authority to run your department. There will be no political pressure put on any department on how to conduct your day-in, day-out tasks," He told the supervisors they need not worry how they or any of their employees vote. "For the next two years, you are totally divorced from politics," he said.

By early next week, Westfall said he would outline the committees under which the different departments will fall and will designate the chairmen of each committee.

Each committee chairman, Westfall said, will be responsible for contacting the department heads in his committee and preparing agendas for the committee's weekly conference with the mayor, He also said he expects the weekly committee meetings to be well prepared with documents, if needed, because he wants no meeting to go longer than an hour.

The new administrative control procedure, Westfall said, is the precursor to a city manager form of government he wants implemented in El Paso. He said he will appoint a charter amendment commission next April to "educate the public" and get ready for a city manager referendum in 1981.

The mayor said he expects the new committee form of administration to have its pitfalls, but he expects the department heads to make the effort to make it work.

"If you don't do your job and if it doesn't work," he said, "I'm not set in concrete. We might need to revert to aldermanic responsibilities."

Westfall also said he wants to institute a monthly no-host breakfast with the department heads. "You're each working in different realms," he said, "but there is a thread of commonality in your supervising city government services . . . Meeting informally and getting to know each other on a first-name basis is a good thing."

The new mayor concluded the meeting by telling department supervisors he hoped they could become "good personal friends and that we can all work together for El Paso."

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WESTFALL'S CAMPAIGN CHIEF NAMED TOP AIDE TO MAYOR

5/18/79

Mayor Tom Westfall named campaign manager Leon Metz as his executive assistant Thursday, and Ellie Enriquez, his former secretary at the FBI, as executive secretary.



The mayor initially said he believed their salaries were "set" at a certain level, but when told they would be to his discretion, he said his new workers "are worth every bit as much" as former Mayor Ray Salazar's were.

Leon Metz

He set the annual pay at \$30,328 for Metz and \$16,558 for Mrs. Enriquez.

Metz now is head of the gifts and acquisitions department at the University of Texas at El Paso library. Metz said he is taking a leave of absence from that job but anticip-

pates continuing as freelance book editor of *The El Paso Times*.

In announcing Metz's appointment, Westfall described Metz as someone who he trusted completely and who has given much of his free time to many local civic organizations.

Metz now is president of the Mission Heritage Association, a position he said he will retain. He also is vice president of the Western Writers of America and a member of the Literary Panel of the Texas Commission of the Arts and Humanities.

He officially assumes duties as executive assistant Monday.

Of Mrs. Enriquez, Westfall said she, was his secretary for five years at the FBI and was employed at the FBI for about 10 years. She now works in the personnel division of El Paso Natural Gas Co., Westfall said. She left the FBI about a year ago. She starts as executive secretary' in two weeks.

The new mayor said Salazar's public relations aide would not be replaced and that he feels taxpayers should not have to pay for public relations employees.

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WESTFALL SUGGESTS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

EPT 5/19/79

Discrimination in employment is the number one problem of blacks in El Paso, local representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People told Mayor Tom Westfall.

Westfall responded with an idea for establishing a human rights commission. Anyone

who felt he was discriminated against in housing, education or employment could appeal to this commission.

The commission, which Westfall said was a suggestion of Goals for El Paso, might serve as a referral agency or if no statutes exist to cover the situation, could suggest new legislation.

Not just blacks or ethnic minorities, but also women or any other person who felt he was discriminated against, could use the commission, the mayor said.

However, he said, he would have to look at the budget before deciding about a commission since an executive director, assistant and secretary would need to be paid.

Still, he said. "Every city in Texas has one."

The NAACP representatives were commemorating the 25th anniversary of the 1954 Brown vs. the Board of Education decision, which declared unconstitutional the principle of "separate but equal."

They called for the city to eliminate all forms of "brutality and abuse," desegregate the school system, create better housing and health care for people regardless of color and hire blacks in proportion to their ratio in the population.

Past NAACP president Hank Sitgraves said blacks are the best educated ethnic group in the city, to a great extent because they are associated with the military. Most black officers, including himself, are college educated, Sitgraves added.

Despite this, he said, they are discriminated against when they look for jobs.

"You don't see us much at city hall," he added.

Rev. Johnnie Washington, NAACP president, said she believes a clause that stipulates an employee must be bilingual is often used deliberately to exclude blacks.

Although she said she understands some jobs require Spanish because they involve working with the public, she said she doesn't believe most should.

For example, she said, if several persons in the office are available to translate, why does every clerk need to speak Spanish?

When Africans were captured and brought to the U.S. as slaves, she said, they were forced to learn English. Blacks here now are forced to learn another language, she said, and it is not easy.

Housing continues to be a problem in El Paso for blacks, Rev. Washington said, especially in apartments on the West Side and on the East Side in the Cielo Vista area.

The NAACP is preparing a documented study, she said, of cases it has worked on where subtle ways are used to steer blacks from living in certain places.

Many times, she said. a black whose voice has no trace of a dialect, calls and asks about vacancies in an apartment complex or condominium and is told to come look.

Once there, however, he is told no vacancies exist.

In those cases, said Rev. Washington, Anglo friends have been sent to check and have been told the apartments still are available.

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Photos by Ruben Ramirez

**Mayor Tom Westfall (at left),
awards Robert W. Lee**



**Mayor Tom Westfall (at left),
awards Robert Given**

**GIVEN, LEE RECEIVE
CONQUISTADORS
EPHP 5/22/79**

El Paso Herald-Post Editor Robert W. "Pete" Lee and Robert Given, president of Zork Hardware Co. were honored by Mayor Tom Westfall yesterday with the Conquistador Award.

Westfall said the award is traditionally given to the honorees of the National Conference of Christians and Jews which held a testimonial dinner for Lee and Givens last March.

In addition to editing The Herald-Post, Lee serves on the board of directors of the United Way, El Paso Cancer Radiation Center, YMCA, Junior Achievement and is chairman of the San Jacinto Christmas Lights Committee. He has been president of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, United Way, Downtown Development Corporation, Hotel Dieu School of Nursing Advisory Council and El Paso Industrial Development Corp.

He has served as chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Conference of Christians and Jews for two terms and headed Yucca Council of Boy Scouts for two terms and the El Paso Guidance Center.

Given has served as president of El Paso Girl Scout Council, El Paso Chamber of Commerce, El Paso Intergovernmental Relations Board, El Paso Jewish Community Center and El Paso Census Tract Committee.

Given has also served as an officer of Light-house for the Blind, He has been a supporter and director of El Paso Guidance Center, Public Television Foundation, Junior Achievement, Downtown Development Association and Employers Association for more than 15 years.

In the business community he serves on the Board of Directors of First Savings and Loan, Popular Dry Goods and Sentry Hardware Corporation. Given is past president of Texas Wholesale Hardware Association and an officer of the National and Southwest Whole Distributors Association.

"The National Council of Christians and Jews chose outstanding honorees," Westfall said of Lee and Given. "These two honorees were not selected lightly."

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Photos by Jerry Littman

Secluded garden offers quiet refuge

MARGIE WESTFALL: FIRST LADY OF EL PASO RADIATES CHARM

By Marjorie Walker
Contemporary Page Editor
EPHP 5/24/79

As Tom Westfall stood at the window of his motel room on May 16, 1970, he watched his first spectacular sunrise in El Paso, Tex. It was love at first sight, but he probably never dreamed then that exactly nine years later, he would be sworn in as Mayor of the city!

When he called his wife Margie, back in Savannah, Ga., later that day, she recalls his great enthusiasm about the city, "And after we bought this house (at 4213 O'Keefe), we decided that even if the FBI should transfer Tom somewhere else, we would not sell our house here. We knew that El Paso would become our permanent home."

Our new First Lady of El Paso is every inch a lady. Attractive and soft-spoken, she radiates a special charm and warmth.

AT THE beginning of her husband's campaign, Mrs. Westfall says they both felt all alone. As the campaign progressed, they met so many beautiful people who became supporters, they felt they'd acquired a large family.

"Tom and I are both 'only children,' so the campaign was a lovely experience for us. It gave us the opportunity to meet many fine people here and they've all been so helpful," she said with a smile.

"Some people would pledge their support to Tom, but would let us know they didn't think he had a chance of winning."

After the votes were counted and recounted, it became official that Tom Westfall did indeed win the election, surprising more than a few people.

ALTHOUGH SHE'S looking forward to the future with enthusiasm, Mrs. Westfall

remarked, "I've lost the best handyman and gardener in El Paso!"

As she showed me through their home, she explained with pride the many improvements they've made. It's obvious our new mayor is an expert handyman.



Mrs. Westfall works on miniatures

Just a few of the things the Westfalls have done include a special hideaway for Margie where she keeps her sewing machine set up next to a work bench and storage cabinets. This is where she works on her unusual miniature hobby.

Mrs. Westfall builds furniture scaled for dollhouses which have become popular collector's items. She also makes tiny fruit,

loaves of bread and other assorted foods from a type of dough found in hobby shops.

At the other end of the house is a bedroom which has been converted into an attractive office for the Mayor. The Westfalls also built an outdoor fireplace and grill beside their swimming pool. They were told it couldn't be done, but Mrs. Westfall assured me the fireplace "draws" perfectly.

AND MOST impressive is the Japanese-American garden they have created. Framed by genuine weathered wood paneling, it is full of bonsai trees, assorted plants and one large renegade apricot tree which refused to be dwarfed. There is a recirculating fountain next to a little bridge and two outdoor couches form a cozy corner sitting area. This looks like the perfect place to get away from it all!

Mrs. Westfall told me that both she and Tom were born in Decatur, Ill., and they lived within blocks of each other while growing up. It's not quite the boy next door story, but close!

She attended James Millikin University in Decatur and graduated from the University of Illinois with both bachelor's and master's degrees. She teaches French at Eastwood High School and specializes in French cooking.

MRS. WESTFALL also, makes most of her own clothes, enjoys gardening, does needle-point and reviews books.

The Westfalls have two daughters, Rebecca Westfall, the first woman Assistant U.S. Attorney in El Paso, and Kathleen Westfall who free lances for El Paso Today Magazine, published by the Chamber of Commerce, is working toward a degree in creative writing at the University of Texas at El

Paso and recently sold a story to OMNI Magazine.

An important member of the household is Heidi, a beautiful German Shepherd, who reportedly expects her meals promptly at 5 p.m. Heidi is not above accepting two meals on the same evening if she can convince someone she hasn't been fed yet. This may explain her pleasingly plump appearance.

Will the next two years change the Westfalls? Margie Westfall says with conviction, "We are still the same people we were before the election and I believe we'll stay the same!"



Tiny bakery contains realistic pastries, bread and birthday cake

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HAVE 'PLUMS' STOPPED GROWING AT EP CITY HALL?

By Tom Westfall
EPT 7/8/79

From time to time El Paso Mayor Tom Westfall will contribute a column to The Times detailing certain aspects of community operation. The mayor believes that the people have a right to know exactly what is

happening in city government. Also, he believes that the people are not always given the correct facts by a few (a very few) members of the media.

City government has been compared to a machine—a ponderous, slow-moving contraption of incomprehensible cogs and wheels ... a sort of Rube Goldberg monstrosity that is not powered by oil, but by political machinations.

These machinations (the "politics as usual" syndrome) are, of course, a rather low-grade source of fuel. Like watered-down gas, they are as inefficient as they are dishonest. In the long run, we are talking dollars lots of them.

Never having been a politician previously, I've always been amazed and shocked by the tremendous bills run up by those who are. Earlier this year, I made a pledge to remove the "politics as usual" system from the city's daily operation. It's a pledge I intend to keep.

In examining the record on how accounting firms were chosen to conduct the city's audit, I discovered a remarkable series of facts and coincidences.

Fact No.1: In 1977, the fee paid to the accounting firm hired to conduct the audit was about \$200,000.

Fact No.2: In 1978, this fees—awarded to the same firm—was about \$180,000.

Fact No.3: During these years; no competitive bids or proposals were taken by the previous city administration in awarding the contracts.

Fact No.4: The managing partner of the accounting firm awarded this contract—which

for two years reached \$380,000—was also, in 1979, one of the largest single campaign contributors for the then-incumbent mayor.

Coincidence? Read on.

Shortly after taking office, I determined that this particularly suspect method of awarding city contracts had to stop. After discussing the situation with several aldermen, I proposed that the city audit contract be based upon sealed proposals submitted by all interested local firms large enough to handle the job.

Orlando Fonseca, alderman for the Border District, contacted these organizations, making sure Hey understood the new competitive requirements.

On July 3 proposals and bids were opened by City Council. The lowest came in from Elmer Fox, Westheimer Co. Its price tag was \$91,000. By a 4-2 vote, council accepted the bid, thereby saving El Paso taxpayers \$89,000 over the previous year.

Remarkable? Yes, particularly when one considers that Elmer Fox, Westheimer and Co. was the very same party handling the city's audit in 1977 and 1978.

In effect, through competitive bidding—even with a yearly inflation rate of 13 percent—Elmer Fox, Westheimer and friends undercut themselves to the tune of \$89,000. Makes you wonder, doesn't it?

By forsaking the creed of "politics as usual," by cutting the political plums out of the city government, this administration has saved the taxpayer money without sacrificing service. This, my friends, is honest and efficient government.

During the next two years, we will try to cut expenses every way possible. By removing "politics" from policy, we hope to steer city government toward solvency.

This is, I think many will agree, an approach whose time has come.

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—(Times staff photo by John Costello)

**TOM WESTFALL SIGNALS VICTORY
WITH DAUGHTER BECKY, LEFT, AND
WIFE MARJORIE, SECOND TO RIGHT**
... El Paso's new mayor received
51 percent of vote in the four-way race

**SALAZAR, PONDER OUT;
WESTFALL VOTERS' CHOICE**
Conservative tide washes
over election issues
By The Times Staff
EPT 4/8/79

El Paso voters, riding the crest of the conservative backlash, turned Mayor Ray Salazar and Mayor Pro Tem Dan Ponder out of office Saturday and dealt decisive defeats to charter amendments and bond issue proposals dearest to their hearts.

With slightly more than 41 percent of the 125,664 registered voters turning out, the electorate made former FBI agent Tom Westfall its choice to take the reins of municipal leadership. Westfall got 25,241

votes, slightly more than the 50 percent needed to escape a runoff.

Urban Renewal, a proposal Salazar and his supporters had fought hard for, met a resounding defeat (9,920 for and 35,601 against or a percentage of 21.8 for and 78.2 against).

Coming in ahead of Mayor Pro Tem Dan Ponder were television sales manager Ron McDaniel and E.W. Joe Divis, who will square off in a runoff election for the East Side aldermanic seat.

Others to face a runoff are Northeast front-runners Pat Haggerty and Fred D. Hardee; Border District candidates Orlando R. Fonseca and Nino Anchondo, with 43.6 and 36.2 percent of the vote respectively.

Winning outright were David Escobar for the Lower Valley post, incumbent Polly Harris for the Central seat and West Side incumbent Jim Scherr.

Bond issue proposals winning voter approval were Amendments 1, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 9 providing for cash reserve reform, candidate residency rules, single-member district committee reorganization, rules for annexation, election date changes and civil service reform.

Propositions passing were for repaving, flood control and Police and Fire Department improvements.

Mayor-elect Westfall credited the people for his upset. Salazar's war chest had come to \$74,000 as against \$31,000 for Westfall.

A month ago you would have been laughed out of town for suggesting Westfall would win without a runoff. Indeed, most doubted

he would make a runoff. One poll gave Salazar a better than 2-1 advantage.

The mayor-elect launched his challenge for the city's top elective office about 16 months ago. His campaign lieutenants said Saturday night that a key to the victory was the fact Westfall's campaign peaked only Thursday. Salazar's campaign, on the other hand, they said, reached its zenith 10 days ago.

Westfall had stressed in his campaign fiscal responsibility and responsiveness to the public and proceeded to ride an apparent wave of voter resentment over the Salazar council's policies in these matters.

People around Westfall began addressing him as mayor. He, in turn, began embracing his supporters.

"This is the greatest grass roots campaign ever, and we've done it with less than half the money," Westfall said with reference to Salazar's campaign. Westfall's wife Margie had tears in her eyes.

A visibly shaken Salazar said late in the evening, he would contest the election because of its closeness. Salazar shared the remainder of the votes with John A. Chapman who took 12.1 percent of the vote and Andres (Nechi) Delgado with .6 percent of the vote.

Westfall, noting the margin of 5,000 votes keeping him from a runoff, called it "quite a thing." But he said that if Salazar wants a recount, "that's certainly his prerogative."

Credibility, said Westfall, was the key to the campaign. "Questions were raised but never answered," he said of the Salazar administration, citing as examples urban renewal,

the bond issue and council's expense accounts. All have been campaign issues.

At the Salazar headquarters, a shocked disbelief descended as the count mounted in Westfall's favor.

Some of the workers began crying. Members of Salazar's family began biting lips to keep from breaking down.

Only the mayor kept his composure. "We are looking at one-tenth of 1 percent of the vote," he said.

"I am very much concerned by the vote count by the new (tabulating) machine . . . they brought it in very recently and there may be some violations of the state elections code in the testing of the machine."

The count itself went smoothly, ending well before midnight and in contrast to previous elections in which the results remained in doubt far into the morning hours.

Salazar said he had not given up yet. "We have fought for too long to be where we're at to turn it (the city) over to a group that has never served the people. Let's continue to look at being in the runoff."

A chant went up among Salazar's supporters, "It's all right, it's OK, we're going to beat them anyway."

Salazar said several things hurt him during the campaign. Specifically he cited:

Association of him with crime when working papers and reports were subpoenaed in the federal grand jury investigation of bail bondsman Victor Apodaca Jr.

The controversy over the land transaction for the new city hall.

He also said inclusion of the urban renewal referendum on the general election ballot. It was Salazar who led in the effort to get the urban renewal referendum on the ballot.

"Without any question, this has been the dirtiest campaign I've ever seen," he said, "In the future, I hope candidates won't resort to this."

Bond issue proposals losing included one that would have brought an overpass in the vicinity of Thomason Hospital. Director of Traffic and Transportation Dryden Smith said that in the failure of the proposition the city lost more than \$19 million in federal matching funds.

Westfall, before an ecstatic crowd that grew to a hundred and beyond in wake of his victory, said the first thing he's going to do is "go home and do my income tax."

A tremendous cheer went up when his 50.1 percent of the vote was announced.

He said he is going to start work on a transition government by the end of the week.

He said he foresees no problems on the new council. "I understand there will be a new mayor pro tem," Westfall said with obvious glee in reference to the defeat in East El Paso of Ponder.

West Side incumbent Scherr made it known after his victory that he wants to be the new mayor pro tem.

While victorious Westfall was a low spender in comparison with Salazar, the winning aldermanic candidates all were top spenders in their races.

In the crowded tax assessor-collector race, top vote-getters Cora Viescas, 13,760, and Rod Davenport, 9,900, will compete in a runoff. Out of a dozen candidates, Bill McGaw was a distant third with 4,973 votes.

Another runoff faces Municipal Court No. 1 judge candidates Kitty Schild and Odell Holmes Jr. Ms. Schild tallied 13,162 votes to Holmes' 12,088. In the Municipal Court No.2 race, incumbent Herb Marsh Jr. polled 25,873 votes to win easily over runner-up Juan Stockmeyer who had 16,291 votes.

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SALAZAR IMPOUNDS BALLOTS

Mayor Ray Salazar's attorney, Ed Lerma, delivered a court order, signed by Judge Woodrow Bean II of the 43rd District Court, impounding the ballots of Saturday's election.

Sheriff Ray Montes received the order at 1:30 a.m. Sunday and immediately took possession of the keys to the Liberty Hall store-room.

The effect of the order gives Montes custody of the ballots instead of the County Elections Department. The deputies were storing the ballots Sunday.

Lerma said Salazar will contest the election. The court order calls on the district attorney to investigate the conduct of the election and to canvass and report the returns.

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PICTURE WAS PERFECT FOR WESTFALL

By Sam Rennick
And Ed Curda
Times Staff Writers
EPT 4/8/79

At 10:15 p.m. at Westfall headquarters, it was family-picture time as the candidate and his wife Margie, who was dressed in a light purple outfit, posed for a snapshot taken by daughter Becky. A cheer went up from the crowd as the flashbulb went off.

It was not as loud a cheer, however, as has been made just moments before when a TV newscast had revealed that with 63 precincts counted, Westfall owned better than a 2,000-vote lead over incumbent Mayor Ray Salazar. The percentage for Westfall was 48.2 which led Harry Matthews, a Westfall worker, to say that 4 more percent would ice it.

Retired military man Ed Corliss was talking no runoff and even campaign treasurer Leon Metz, who an hour earlier had not believed a first ballot victory 'possible, was now talking cautiously in those terms.

A subtle change in the mood of the crowd was evident as increasing numbers of a group of about 100 replaced doubt with a conviction of at least a runoff if not victory on the first ballot.

Among those in the crowd were Jesus Reyes, SCAT bus driver, who along with other SCAT drivers has been critical of the Salazar administration over the city policies toward bus drivers.

Reyes said SCAT drivers had been active during the day distributing Westfall material around San Jacinto Plaza and that they had

done the same at various churches last Sunday.

Northeast district aldermanic candidate Mario Dunaway also was in the crowd. Dunaway, who according to earlier returns was last in a six-man race, said of his campaign, "I have no regret, it was beautiful, and as Gen. MacArthur said 'I Shall Return.'"

Dunaway said if there is a runoff he will support Westfall. "He's got the guts," Dunaway said.

Even as the polls closed, Westfall supporters gathered at his 1318 Texas headquarters with an air of cautious optimism.

A dozen persons divided their attention between three televisions, one of which broadcast the soothing music of Lawrence Welk.

Nobody, at this stage, was particularly attentive to election coverage.

A table spread much like that offered when he opened his headquarters featured ham, roast beef, turkey, coleslaw, potato salad, brownies, coffee and beer.

A big red and white cake was emblazoned with his campaign slogan:

"Tom you gave them the truth." Drapes and campaign slogans, all colored red, white and blue, were scattered about the room.

Westfall was not expected until after 8 p.m. or so. Leon Metz, his campaign treasurer, said Westfall, that morning, had taught his usual 8 a.m.-to-noon class in government at Park College (sponsored by Fort Bliss).

At Salazar's headquarters, downtown, a number of workers had gathered well before

the polls had even closed. Some of them appeared openly worried.

Mark Howell, one of Salazar's three co-chairmen for his campaign, reflected their rollercoaster of emotions. "I was depressed at 3 o'clock, depressed at 4 o'clock—and I've been elated ever since."

Salazar himself arrived just before the polls closed looking visibly tired. Since 6:30 a.m., he said, he had been campaigning, visiting all six districts.

As the polls closed, he and his growing number of supporters clustered around the single television to hear the broadcasting of the returns.

Salazar and his campaign lieutenants were huddled in a room glued to a radio and were grimly hopeful when the absentee tally came in.

Jim Kirby, Salazar's executive assistant, claimed that former Mayor Don Henderson had swept the absentee voting two years ago by as high a margin as Westfall had this time and went on to lose when the vote of the day rolled in.

Salazar took a break in the middle of the counting with his family. He returned in an hour and gave his gloomy supporters a rousing pep talk.

"Cheer up, cheer up," he said to his applauding supporters. "If we don't win it tonight, we'll be in the runoff and in three weeks, we'll win it."

Anticipating a run-off with Westfall, Salazar told his supporters, "We'll just have to work harder to get the voters out. The influentials are trying to control this city and we can't let that happen."

He termed Westfall “a puppet for (former mayors) Judson Williams and Fred Hervey,” the co-chairmen of the pro-electric Utility Citizens Energy Committee who are closely allied with the conservative big-business elite in El Paso,

Salazar sounded a note of confidence, “Two years ago I was behind going into the runoff, but we turned out the voters and we won.” He got a thundering round of applause and loud cheers when he told his supporters, “This administration has made things happen. Previous administrations only planned for things. But now we have a new city hall, an EMS (Emergency Medical Service), and nutrition centers that are open and serving the people. Salazar didn’t plan. He did it.”

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WESTFALL, OFFICIALS

TAKE OFFICE

By Ernie Sotomayor

EPHP 5/16/79

EPT 4/8/79

New Mayor Takes First Actions In Office

WESTFALL OPENS TERM

WITH A WARNING

By John Edwards and

Ernie Sotomayor

EPHP 5/17/79

SALAZAR IMPOUNDS BALLOTS

EPT 4/8/79

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**NEW MAYOR TAKES
QUICK CONTROL**

By Ed Curda

Times Staff Writer

EPT 5/17/79

**WESTFALL'S CAMPAIGN CHIEF
NAMED TOP AIDE TO MAYOR**

5/18/79

**WESTFALL SUGGESTS HUMAN
RIGHTS COMMISSION**

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**GIVEN, LEE RECEIVE
CONQUISTADORS**

EPHP 5/22/79

**MARGIE WESTFALL: FIRST LADY
OF EL PASO RADIATES CHARM**

By Marjorie Walker

Contemporary Page Editor

EPHP 5/24/79

**HAVE 'PLUMS' STOPPED GROWING
AT EP CITY HALL?**

By Tom Westfall

EPT 7/8/79

**SALAZAR, PONDER OUT;
WESTFALL VOTERS' CHOICE**

Conservative tide washes

over election issues

By The Times Staff