



Watson



Westbrooks

Who's in charge at Chicago State?

Beleaguered official says he's still leader, but board disagrees

BY JODI S. COHEN
Tribune reporter

The Chicago State University board of trustees considers Sandra Westbrooks the school's acting president.

Wayne Watson still considers himself the president.

They can't both be right. The board plans to meet Friday to settle the debate by finalizing a sabbatical agreement that was intended to allow Watson to exit without drama. Instead, the public university, which has faced its share of

Democrats pick Kelly

She wins handily in primary battle to succeed Jackson



BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Robin Kelly won the special Democratic primary for the 2nd Congressional District.

With turnout low, Republican candidates locked in tight race

BY RICK PEARSON
AND BILL RUTHHART
Tribune reporters

Former state Rep. Robin Kelly easily won the special Democratic primary Tuesday night in the race to replace the disgraced Jesse Jackson Jr. in Congress, helped by millions of dollars in pro-gun control ads from New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's political fund.

A snowstorm and lack of voter interest kept turnout low as Kelly had 52 percent to 25 percent for former U.S. Rep. Debbie Halvorson and 11 percent for Chicago

9th Ward Ald. Anthony Beale with 99 percent of precincts counted.

Kelly will formally take on the winner of the Republican primary in an April 9 special general election in the heavily Democratic district. In the GOP contest, less than 25 votes separated convicted felon Paul McKinley and businessman Eric Wallace.

Kelly framed her win as a victory for gun control forces.

"You sent a message that was heard around our state and across the nation,"

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ANTHONY SOUFFLE/TRIBUNE PHOTO

Anthony Beale, left, greets supporter and campaign worker Frankie Nelson
his concession speech following Tuesday's primary.



ABEL URIBE/TRIBUNE PHOTO

erson thanks supporters after conceding to Robin Kelly in the 2nd Congress-
ct special election Tuesday. Halvorson won 23 percent of the vote.

held in Kanka-
and the portion
county within the
t.

was reported to
15 percent in the
suburban Cook.
98 percent of the
otes cast in Chi-
Democratic, as
percent of those
urban Cook.

On the Republican side,
the unofficial vote leader
was McKinley, 54, who was
arrested 11 times from 2003
to 2007, mostly for pro-
testing, with almost all of
the charges dropped. In the
1970s and '80s, McKinley
was convicted of six felony
counts, serving nearly 20
years in prison for burglaries,
armed robberies and

aggravated battery. He pre-
viously declined to discuss
the circumstances of those
crimes but has dubbed him-
self the "ex-offender pre-
venting the next offender"
in his campaign.

Records show McKinley
also owes \$14,147 in federal
taxes, which might explain
his answer at a forum when
asked if he would cut any

SOURCE: Unofficial results compiled
by the Chicago Tribune from
suburban Cook County, Kankakee
and Will counties and the City of
Chicago elections boards.

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federal programs. "Cer-
tainly," he said. "The IRS."

Tuesday's bad weather
couldn't wash away the
district's sordid history of
congressional representa-
tion.

Jackson's predecessor,
Mel Reynolds, was forced to
give up his office in 1995
after being convicted of sex
crimes, including having
sex with a minor who was a
campaign worker. This
time, Reynolds launched
what turned out to be a
failed bid to return to Con-
gress, seeking redemption
from Democratic voters.

Reynolds got into office
by defeating Gus Savage,
who had been accused of
sexually accosting a Peace
Corps worker during a trip
to Zaire.

Virtually all of the 14 ac-
tive Democrats and four
Republicans on the primary
ballots pledged to begin a
new day for voters in the
district.

Initially, 17 Democrats
and five Republicans filed
for the primary. But three
Democrats dropped out, in-
cluding state Sen. Toi
Hutchinson of Olympia

phone message telling them
he would come back when
cleared by doctors.

But Jackson never re-
turned to office. Just days
before the special primary,
he and his wife, former 7th
Ward Ald. Sandi Jackson,
each pleaded guilty to fed-
eral fraud charges.

Kelly ran a largely one-
issue campaign, focusing on
gun violence and her back-
ing of Obama's push to ban
military-style assault weap-
ons, limit large-capacity
ammunition magazines and
require universal back-
ground checks for gun pur-
chasers. Kelly focused on
the gun issue even before
the elementary school
shootings in Newtown,
Conn., calling her push to
quell such violence a per-
sonal one because of friends
she'd seen become victims.

*Tribune reporters Monique
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[chicagotribune.com/
jacksonphotos](http://chicagotribune.com/jacksonphotos)

 See photos of Jesse
Jackson Jr. through
the years.

declares victory in Cicero

Candidate
Juan Ochoa
had prom-
ised not to

The campaign was
marred in recent weeks by
accusations of voter intima-
dation and fraud, including
shill and mishandling of

land for an aquatic center.

His stiffest challenge
came from Ochoa, who ac-
cused Dominick of using his
position to benefit himself

