

Pratt, Barrett in a dead heat

Poll shows racial split; undecideds will be key

By **GREG J. BOROWSKI**
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As the Milwaukee mayor's race enters a final frantic 10 days, a Journal Sentinel poll shows Acting Mayor Marvin Pratt and former U.S. Rep. Tom Barrett deadlocked at 44% of the vote each.

That leaves the two competing for the 12% that remains undecided.

Both sides took heart in the numbers, with a Pratt adviser saying Pratt had withstood intense scrutiny over his campaign finances, while Barrett backers said the primary election gap had been closed and momentum was clearly theirs.

The tight race, which the poll shows, carries a clear racial split, will put extra emphasis on which candidate can best get his supporters to the polls on April 6.

The race "certainly is going to depend on turnout."

Nick Panagakis,
 of Market Shares Corp.,
 which conducted the poll

The race could also turn on a Milwaukee County district attorney's investigation into Pratt's campaign finances.

District Attorney E. Michael McCann said Friday results of that investigation will be announced Monday.

The poll suggests a strong majority of city voters are receptive to the idea of electing an African-American mayor, and generally like Pratt, who is black — but more than a third are not satisfied with Pratt's explanation of discrepancies in his campaign fund.

And many of those voters are among the undecideds. Also, more white voters than black voters are undecided — 15% to 5%. That could favor Barrett, said Nick Panagakis of Market Shares Corp., which conducted the poll for the Journal Sentinel.

"The fact it's three times larger should help Barrett," Panagakis said. "It certainly is going to depend on turnout."

The poll questioned about 400 likely voters Wednesday through Friday and has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percentage points.

It puts Pratt and Barrett in a similar spot to where they were at the same point before the Feb. 17 primary. The Journal Sentinel's pre-primary poll showed Barrett and Pratt

Please see **POLL, 13A**



RICK WOOD / RWOOD@JOURNALSENTINEL.COM

Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann speaks with reporters Friday after meeting with representatives of Acting Mayor Marvin Pratt.

Please see **MAYOR, 13A**

Results of DA inquiry into Pratt campaign due Monday

By **STEVE SCHULTZE, DAVE UMHOEFER and GREG J. BOROWSKI**
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Results of a criminal investigation into Acting Mayor Marvin Pratt's campaign account will be announced Monday.

Milwaukee County District Attorney E. Michael McCann declined Friday to say whether he expected to issue any charges in the case or to discuss any aspect of the investigation.

"Let's just say we will release the results of our investigation," McCann said, following a meeting of more than an hour at the Safety Building with Pratt's attorney and two top campaign aides.

McCann said the meeting was not a negotiating session.

John Yingling, Pratt's campaign strategist and one of the participants in the meeting, said he couldn't comment on what was discussed.

He said Pratt would publicly release amended reports Monday that would correct earlier reports' discrepancies. Some of those inconsistencies prompted the investigation by McCann, which turned into a secret John Doe probe earlier this month.

Monday is also the deadline for the final campaign finance reports before the April 6 election.

GOP hopes to disclose Clarke testimony

Effort seeks to discredit former aide's account

New York Times,
 Washington Post

Washington — Republican congressional leaders announced Friday that they would seek to declassify past congressional testimony from Richard A. Clarke, President Bush's former counterterrorism chief, in an effort to demonstrate that the former aide is lying about Bush's record.

The move on Capitol Hill signaled a sharp escalation in the campaign by the Bush administration and its Republican allies to undermine the credibility of the former official who served under three administrations.



Clarke

"Mr. Clarke has told two entirely different stories under oath," Sen. Bill Frist of Tennessee, the majority leader, said on the Senate floor as he condemned Clarke for accusing the

Bush administration in a new book of largely ignoring the threat of al-Qaida attacks before Sept. 11, 2001.

Clarke repeated his charge in testimony this week before the independent commission investigating the attacks. Frist suggested that Clarke had testified under oath on both occasions, though Democrats said the 2002 testimony was not sworn.

But the former National Security Council aide received support Friday from an unlikely source — Secretary of State Colin Powell. In a television interview, Powell said that Clarke had "served his nation very, very well" and was "an expert in these matters," referring to counterterrorism.

While saying that Clarke's book is "not the complete story," Powell said on PBS' "NewsHour" that he was "not attributing any bad motives" to Clarke. "I'm not aware of a campaign against Mr. Clarke, and I am not a member," he said. "The book is the book, and you can read it and make your own judgment as to whether it's accurate."

Frist and other Republican congressional leaders said their decision to seek declassi-

Please see **CLARKE, 8A**

CRACKDOWN ON AL-QAIDA BRINGS PROTESTS



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of Islamic religious parties chant slogans against the Pakistani government during a rally in Peshawar on Friday. The group was condemning the military's campaign against al-Qaida forces. On Friday, Pakistani troops demolished up to 50 homes of tribesmen accused of providing protection to al-Qaida fighters.

Lautenschlager offers to pay for part of mileage

But move may not end questions about her personal use of state car

By **STEVEN WALTERS and GINA BARTON**
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Attorney General Peg Lautenschlager said Friday that she plans to reimburse the state for "less than 2,000" miles that she drove in her state car last year.

That represents personal use of the vehicle, while the rest of the more than 20,000 miles she logged last year were for official business, Lautenschlager said during a meeting Friday with Journal Sentinel editors and reporters.

Lautenschlager drove the black 1999 Buick off Highway 151 while driving home to Fond du Lac from Madison, where she said she had been drinking with friends. The state Ethics Board opened an investigation into Lautenschlager's use of the car after the Journal Sentinel reported that the first-term Democrat had not reimbursed the state for any personal use of the vehicle in 2003.

The state Department of Administration asked her to review her records and file updated mileage reports, if needed.

Lautenschlager's offer to reimburse the state for less than 2,000 miles of personal travel means she would be re-



MICHAEL SEARS / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peg Lautenschlager again stated Friday that she had only two glasses of wine before her drunken driving arrest on Feb. 24.

BEHIND THE NUMBERS

The attorney general's offer to reimburse the state for less than 2,000 miles of personal travel means she would be repaying about **one round-trip per month** between Madison and her Fond du Lac home for her first 14 months in office.

paying about one round-trip per month between Madison and her Fond du Lac home for her first 14 months in office.

A former state legislator and U.S. attorney, Lautenschlager keeps a Madison apartment but often returns to her

Please see **LAUTENSCHLAGER, 11A**

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TODAY'S TMJ4 WEATHER

TODAY
 49 / 38
 Cool. Showers and thunderstorms possible late.

TOMORROW
 60 / 42
 Warmer. Scattered showers and thunderstorms.

MAP AND FORECASTS ON BACK OF SPORTS 6 SECTIONS

GOOD MORNING

TODAY'S TOP NEWS

NATION

Bloodless HIV test
 The government has approved the first oral HIV test that gives results in 20 minutes. **3A**

ENCORE

An official rock star
 Kevin Paap of Kansasville is the top vote-getter in "The Rockstar Project," an area talent competition modeled after "American Idol." **6B**

METRO

Cleanup to begin
 Kerr-McGee Corp. will begin excavating a new streambed next week for a 2¼-mile-long

stretch of the Little Menomonee River between W. Bradley Ave. and W. Fond du Lac Ave. in Milwaukee, federal officials say. **1B**

SPORTS

Kelly tied for lead
 Madison's Jerry Kelly shares the lead in The Players Championship after a second-round 66. Tiger Woods rallies to make the 36-hole cut but is nine shots back. **1C**

Bucks beat Bulls

The Bucks defeat the Bulls, 115-105, in Chicago. **1E**

A WORD — ALBEIT
 (awl BEE it)
 Although; even though. *conj.*

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Kerry touts new economic plan featuring tax breaks for businesses

Corporate proposal part of program to create 10 million jobs

Washington Post,
 Cox News Service

Detroit — John Kerry returned to the campaign trail Friday for a two-day swing through the battleground states of Michigan and Missouri to tout a new economic plan featuring tax breaks for U.S. businesses.

Kerry largely avoided the controversy over the investigation into the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to focus attention on the first new domestic idea of his general election campaign: cutting corporate taxes in exchange for eliminating in-

centives for businesses to move operations, income and jobs overseas.

Speaking at Wayne State University in Michigan, a state hit hard by unemployment, Kerry said his corporate tax proposal was part of a comprehensive economic plan he will put forward in coming weeks to create 10 million jobs during the first four years of a Kerry administration.

Kerry, hoping to convince voters he is not a tax-and-spend liberal, said he would

Please see **KERRY, 12A**

Internet: President pushes Web access plan. **12A**
Visit: Bush will speak Tuesday at center in Appleton. **1B**

THE PLAN

John Kerry says his newly unveiled economic plan would:

- **Reduce** the corporate tax rate to 33.25% from 35%.
- **Provide** small businesses tax incentives to hire new workers and provide health care to employees.
- **Finance** the new tax cuts by repealing tax benefits offered to most companies that house income overseas.
- **Make** a one-time offer to tax companies at a low 10% rate on any income they bring back into the United States.

Source: Washington Post

Please see **CLARKE, 8A**

■ **Spain:** Officials believe Jordanian is behind bombings. **8A**



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