

# Alford-Olive Wins Mayoral Race

By Bonnie Bolden  
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Cheers erupted at Betty Alford-Olive's campaign headquarters Saturday night as the newly elected-mayor announced her win.

"We had 58 percent," declared Alford-Olive, listening attentively to a cell phone for the exact results.

The final tally of the mayor's race showed that Alford-Olive had 1,180 votes; incumbent Mayor Clarence Hawkins had 591 votes; and Troy L. Downs had 262 votes.

"This has been an amazing journey," Alford-Olive said.

She referred to her decision to run for mayor as a "calling" that was spurred by "a thirst for change in this area." Alford-Olive told her supporters that she knew the task would be difficult and noted that she had a smaller chance to win than a man and a significantly lower chance than an incumbent.

One of her constituents said that Alford-Olive's faith brought them to this point, and the group bowed in prayer.

Alford-Olive said she did not want to take credit for the win.

"I don't want to say I-we, the people. I respect the will of the people, and the people have spoken," she said. "I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Hawkins and Mr. Downs. Throughout this race, I was running for, never against anybody."

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