

Attorney general rivals predict victory

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By BEN J. PLASTINO

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The two attorney general nominees, Democrat J. D. Williams, Preston, and Republican Jim Jones, each predicted victories Tuesday for the Nov. 2 general election.

Jones won his spur the hard way, defeating Ada County Prosecutor Jim Harris, in a tight race while Williams was unopposed for his party's nomination.

Both said they likely will keep a low profile for the summer campaigning by attending fairs, rodeos, community events and their state party conventions but will revive activities in early September. Both released their views in Post-Register interviews.

Both were in east Idaho to attend the Fishermen's Breakfast at St. Anthony last Friday and also campaigned in east Idaho over the weekend.

"I'm really pleased at the election results, particularly my vote out of east Idaho," said Jones.

"I feel great," said Williams. "I feel the weakest Republican candidate for the general election won."

Jones said he was elated that he carried every county east of Ada county and split even in north Idaho.

He said his campaign strategy worked in that Harris won Ada County by only 59 percent, while he, Jones, split about even in north Idaho, and then swept south Idaho east of Boise, winning 35 of the state's 44 counties.

He won about 54 to 46 percent, or 50,000 to 45,000 votes. Jones said he spent \$85,000 on the primary but a large portion of this outlay is good for the general election, such as car bumper sticks, signs, brochures and other campaign literature.

Jones said about half of the primary costs were raised by contributions while he paid for the other half.

As result of his heavy primary expenditures, he said he plans to spend only about \$50,000 for the general.

"My campaign victory was the result of good hard work," he said. "I am happy and I want to thank all of the people."

Jones noted his victory also snaps an Ada County prosecutor's grip on the attorney general position. The last three attorney generals, David H. Leroy, Wayne L. Kidwell and Democrat Tony

Park had previously served in the Ada County prosecuting attorney offices.

Jones said his campaign issue of advocating a more favorable legal climate on agriculture, representing agriculture on the State Land Board, and stiffer penalties for drunk driving and drug abuses helped in his election.

Williams said he spent \$15,000 but most of this is geared for the general election, such as car bumper stickers, posters and various campaign literatures.

He said he anticipates spending between \$50,000 and \$60,000 for the \$42,500 a year job.

Williams said he will take a substantial cut in pay as compared with what he receives in private practice.

Williams pointed to his extensive background as former deputy attorney general and presently completing serving four terms as Franklin County prosecutor, plus his private practice.

Raised on a farm and well versed with farm legislation, Williams said he will be able to represent the agricultura interests on the State Land Board and the attorney general office, something which has been largely missing the past few years.

He served as president of the Idaho Prosecuting Attorney Association and on the board of the National District Attorney Association last year.

"I believe I have the all around credibility to fill the position," said Williams.

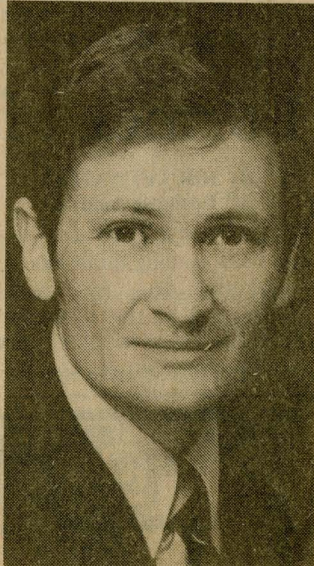
He said he has been especially vigilant as a prosecuting attorney to prosecuting drug pushers in dozens of cases.

"There has got to be greater risks for these drug pushers," said Williams, who said he advocated a mandatory prison term.

He said he would work with the Idaho Sheriff Association to speak in one voice in prosecuting the criminals in general and the drug pushers in particular.

Williams expressed pleasure at his own vote, attracting 36,600 and not far behind the governor with 40,500, and two longtime state officials, Auditor Joe Williams 37,200 and Treasurer Marjorie Ruth Moon 38,600, who usually lead the state ticket of both parties.

Williams said in view of his wide background he could have a legislative package ready for the Idaho Legislature when it convenes in early January.



Jim Jones



J.D. Williams