

Turnout in the Jackson Democratic primary election was low, with 33,839 Jacksonians casting ballots in the Democratic primary, and 34,169 Jacksonians voting in total. The much less popular Republican primary brought in 330 votes. Jason Wells won the Republican mayoral primary election on Tuesday night.

No one—save Lumumba’s own campaign—seemed to believe that a candidate winning a majority with low turnout and nine candidates was possible for the Democratic primary. Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann who predicted low turnout in statewide municipal elections told reporters Tuesday morning that the Jackson Democratic primary would more than likely go to a run-off and it would be a “miracle” if someone managed to take home 50 percent of the vote plus one. Lumumba pulled off more than a miracle, in that case.

The Jackson City Clerk’s staff counted ballots in the basement of the Hinds County Courthouse with the assistance of the Hinds County Clerk’s office last night. Initial returns showed Lumumba out ahead of other candidates—but not with over 50 percent for a while. Mayor Tony Yarber, however, clearly was out of the running even with a third of precincts’ votes counted. He conceded the race around 8:30 p.m. and endorsed Lumumba.

By about 9:30 p.m. over 80 percent of the precincts’ votes were in, and Lumumba had a sizeable lead at 54 percent of the total votes. Sen. Horhn conceded the race around this time. Then the vote-counting halted after a tech glitch in the basement of the Hinds County Courthouse. Clerks needed access to a machine to download votes from one of the flash drives, which didn’t work at first, but the room where the machine they needed was—was locked. By 10 p.m. clerks and election commission staff were able to download the rest of the votes and report the final results.

Lumumba ended the night with more than 55 percent of the total votes cast in the election, garnering 18,617 votes. Horhn, who had the second-highest votes in the race, came in way short with about 21 percent of total votes. The results on election night included absentee ballots cast before the election but excluded affidavit ballots cast at the polls, cast when a person went to the wrong precinct. Clerk staffers said that while there were several affidavit ballots to be counted on Wednesday—there were not enough to change the results and edge Lumumba out of winning a majority.

Lumumba came close to winning the emergency mayoral run-off election back in 2014, after his father unexpectedly died. Mayor Tony Yarber and Lumumba emerged from the primary election with each candidate winning 31 percent of the vote. In the 2014 primary emergency primary election, 35,522 Jacksonians voted (about 1,000 more than last night’s election). There are well over 100,000 Jacksonians registered to vote.

As far as city council races go, all incumbents running for re-election won: Ward 2 Councilman Melvin Priester Jr., Ward 3 Councilman Kenneth Stokes, Ward 4

Councilman De'Keither Stamps and Ward 5 Councilman Charles Tillman. Virgi Lindsay took home 65 percent of the vote to easily replace Margaret Barrett-Simon's Ward 7 spot on council and beat out newcomer Ladarion Ammons. The Ward 6 Councilman race will go to a run-off in two weeks between Aaron Banks, who received 32 percent of the votes, and Ernest Slaughter, who received 23 percent of the votes. Banks or Slaughter will replace Council President Tyrone Hendrix. Republican Ward 1 Councilman Ashby Foote has no challengers and will also retain his spot on the city council.