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DA says opposition no re-election threat

By Kevin Steincross

Lariat Reporter

Vic Feazell, McLennan County District Attorney, said Tuesday he is not concerned one bit about his new opposition, Paul Gartner, who announced Monday he will also run for district attorney.

"Gartner is not real opposition," Feazell said at the McLennan County Courthouse. "I beat the socks off of him in '82 and I'm going to beat the rest off of him this time."

Gartner, a Republican, said Monday he felt cooperation had been non-existent between Feazell and the other law enforcement agencies, and this had proved to be detrimental to the office of the district attorney.

Feazell, a 1979 graduate of Baylor Law School, said the reason Gartner brought that up was because it was the only thing he could find to try to blemish Feazell's record.

"I will admit there have been problems with the chief of police and the assistant U.S. attorney, but I am elected by the people and I will answer to the people," Feazell said. "I will run this office the way I see fit and not the way Larry Scott (McLennan County chief of police) wants it run."



Vic Feazell

He added that McLennan County has the highest felony conviction record of any city more than 100,000 in population and in 1985 had a D.W.I. conviction rate of more than 90 percent.

"I will continue to run this office the way I have," he said. "I will not rubber stamp what they (Scott and the federal attorney) do. I will prosecute policemen when I think they have abused their power."

Feazell beat Gartner in the 1982 election by 10,000 votes, and Feazell said he expects the next election to pose no problems for him.

The deadline for filing in the district attorney election is 6 p.m. Monday. The primaries will be May 3, and the election will be Nov. 4.