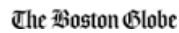




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# Jackson victorious in race for Turner's council seat

## Defeats Mills with 82 percent of the vote



(Barry Chin/ Globe staff)

Tito Jackson worked the crowd at his election night party after his decisive victory.

By [Andrew Ryan](#)  
Globe Staff / March 16, 2011

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Tito Jackson won a resounding victory yesterday in a special election for the Boston City Council, ushering in a new era for a district plagued by political scandals in the heart of the city's black community.

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Jackson will take the seat held for more than a decade by Chuck Turner, the dedicated but combative community organizer convicted of accepting a \$1,000 bribe and thrown out of office in December. Turner is due to report to federal prison on March 25, the first day Jackson will be eligible to take the oath of office.

The 35-year-old political operative captured 2,829 votes, or 82 percent. He easily defeated

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Cornell Mills, who collected 556, or 16 percent, of the vote for the seat representing District 7, which includes Roxbury, Lower Roxbury, and parts of the Fenway, the South End, and Dorchester.

Jackson, an unfailing optimist who bought his childhood home on Schuyler Street from his parents, addressed a cheering crowd of supporters last night at Biff's Lounge in Grove Hall.

"I'm just feeling really glad that people are buying into our vision of economic development and jobs and how to rejuvenate our community and are looking forward, not backward," Jackson said last night. "There's no question that we stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, but this is a time for moving forward."

Mills is the 36-year-old son of former state Senator Dianne Wilkerson, who is serving 3 1/2 years in federal prison for pocketing \$23,500 in bribes in the same corruption sting that ensnared Turner. Mills waited last night for returns at his campaign headquarters on Blue Hill Avenue, but could not be reached for comment.

Yesterday's results took no one by surprise: Jackson won 67 percent of the vote in the preliminary election a month ago. Mills squeaked into the final with just 9 percent, beating the third-place finisher by only 13 votes.

Jackson had the overwhelming support of labor unions and the broad grassroots network he built as the political director for Governor Deval Patrick's successful reelection campaign last fall. He had the support of big-name backers, from the governor's wife, Diane Patrick, to Turner, who remained popular in the district despite his downfall.

That support helped Jackson raise more than \$107,000 for the election, his campaign said. Mills had mustered just over \$4,500 through the end of February, according to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance.

Jackson's campaign patrolled the district yesterday with a slick Chevy S10 pickup truck outfitted with 4-foot by 6-foot "Vote Tito" billboards that light up at night. On top of the truck, another three-sided sign rotated with the help of a battery-powered motor. The Mills campaign had a green van with red signs tied to the side. [Continued...](#)

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