

Most incumbents survive

Oakland sees just one upset

There were only a handful of real races in Tuesday's congressional, state and county primaries. Fewer still provided any real thrills.

Even where incumbents were contested, there usually was no contest. There was an exception, though.

In the 18th State Senate District, which includes Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills and the lakes area, Douglas Ross defeated incumbent Daniel S. Cooper in the Democratic primary. Ross had built a reputation and a career as a citizens' and consumer advocate.

The results trickled into the Oakland County Courthouse throughout the night and into the morning, but Cooper, even when his home precincts were tallied, could not close the gap.

Ross, who never trailed in the race, outpolled Cooper 12,019 to 9,623. Ross, a co-director and a founder of the Michigan Citizens Lobby and a critic of Michigan's Citizens Cause, criticized Cooper's stands on consumer-oriented issues throughout the primary campaign.

In November, Ross will face Republican Mark S. Simon, who was unopposed in the primary. Simon polled 7,966 votes.

IN OTHER CONTESTED state senate races: In the 18th State Senate District, which includes the southeastern portion of Troy, Democratic incumbent Bill S. Huffman best challenger Darlene Berni, 9,395 to 4,406. Huffman will face Republican

Thomas J. Weidman in the November election. Weidman, unopposed, drew 5,066 votes.

TWO UNITED STATES congressional races had at least three people chasing party nominations.

In the 19th Congressional District, which includes Birmingham, West Bloomfield and Bloomfield and Avon townships, two Democrats battled to face incumbent William Brownfield in November. Betty F. Collier outpolled L.J. Petterson 9,703 to 9,391 to win a spot on the general election ballot. Brownfield, however, drew more votes than the two Democrats combined, 27,415.

In the 12th Congressional District, which crosses the Macomb-Oakland line and includes half of Avon Township, GOP State Rep. Kirby Holmes will face Democratic incumbent David Bonior in November. Holmes tallied in 6,103 votes in Oakland and Macomb Counties to Eugene Iyaz's 1,588 votes. Bonior, who was unopposed in the Democratic primary, collected 22,981 votes in the two counties.

IT WAS STRICTLY a Democratic fray in two state house races.

In the 24th D1 district, which includes a portion of West Bloomfield Township, the lakes area and Novi, Democrat Elizabeth M. Giese tallied more votes than her two intraparty opponents to go on to the general election against incumbent Richard Fessler. Mrs. Giese polled 2,418 votes while Stephen Rosman collected 1,201 votes and Dennis McCoy tallied 1,126 votes.

Fessler drew 5,019 votes, more than the three Democratic candidates combined.

In the 71st District, which includes half of Troy, Democratic incumbent Sal Rocca easily parried Dave Pierce's challenge. Rocca polled 4,782 votes across Oakland and Macomb Counties to Pierce's 2,661 votes. Republican C. Douglas Cruce, unopposed in the primary, collected 2,227 votes.

ON THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' slate, three were three races of special interest to this area.

In the 14th District, which includes the northern portion of Troy and the southeastern corner of Avon Township, Republican incumbent Henry W. Hoot and Marilyn Gosling squared off for the nomination. Hoot, a staunch conservative who has a habit of irritating party regulars, defeated Mrs. Gosling 1,428 to 1,147.

Hoot will face Democrat Richard Mills, who was unopposed in the primary, in November.

In the patchwork 15th District, which includes portions of Farmington Hills, Southfield, Beverly Hills and Bloomfield Township, Albert A. Keenan and Anthony Tedesco wanted to face Republican incumbent and board of commissioners Vice Chairman Lillian Moffitt in November. Tedesco eased past Keenan 1,013 to 994.

Mrs. Moffitt, who ran unopposed, collected 2,124 votes.

In the 24th District, which includes a portion of Farmington Hills, Novi and Walled Lake, Republican incumbent Dennis Murphy turned back Martha L. Hoyer 1,407 to 1,004.

Democrat Lew Coy, a former county commissioner, collected 1,503 votes. He ran unopposed.

Gage, Kaufman top circuit court field

Two women and four men will do it all over again in November as they continue their chase for three new Oakland County Circuit Court seats.

Hilda Gage, 39, of Bloomfield Hills unofficially captured the top spot as she garnered 28,570 votes. Mrs. Gage rode the strength of an intense advertising campaign and a number of important endorsements in Oakland County's legal community to far outdistance her rivals.

Bernard L. Kaufman, 49, of West Bloomfield Township placed second with 23,174 votes. Judith Denney Doran, 36, of Franklin came in third with 22,021 votes.

According to veteran Oakland County court watchers, the three top candidates will have a distinct advantage over the three remaining candidates because most of the financial backing of the county's lawyers usually flows to the top vote getters in the primary.

Rounding out the general election field: are District Court Judge Gene Schmitz, 45, of Walled Lake, with 21,881 votes; District Court Judge Robert C. Anderson, 53, of Pontiac, with 19,010 votes; and former State Rep. Albert Kramer, 54, of Oak Park with 13,031 votes.

The rest of the field finished as follows: Michael S. Friedman, 37, of Bloomfield Hills, 12,446; Stuart Bricker, 35, of West Bloomfield, 12,272; Mildred Viaich, 55, of Rochester, 11,823; Robert E. Cunningham, 50, of Pontiac, 10,940; Robert C. Williams, 32, of Birmingham, 10,834; Oakland County Circuit Court Administrator Fred Mester, 41, of Huntington Woods, 9,935; and Bruce H. Kiedan, 38, of West Bloomfield, 6,496.

Incumbent Oakland County Circuit Court Judge William J. Beer was ruled off the ballot just days before the election. Votes cast for Beer on absentee ballots were not counted.

Voters like fixed millage

The words "tax limitation" were magic for an Oakland County ballot proposition that would establish a fixed, county-wide millage and abolish the tax-pilocation board.

The proposal was unofficially approved 55,825 to 31,015.

"I'm sure at a time when tax limitation is on the mind of the public, any mention of tax limitation and fixed millage would have appeal," said County Budget Director James Brennan.

The proposal, which will affect the 1980 fiscal budget, will put a ceiling of 16.46 mills on the amount of taxes taken county-wide to be parceled out to the county for operations, the townships, the intermediate school district and school districts.

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