

Caddell wins GOP bid in county primary election

Dr. G. William Caddell beat two other Republicans in a primary election Friday and will face Democrat George Montgomery next month in an election for the 25th District seat on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

The Commerce Township chiropractor, in his first bid for public office,

received 403 votes to beat his nearest opponent by almost 200 votes.

Placing second was Southfield school teacher Dorothy McIntosh of West Bloomfield with 230 votes. Leonard Nathanson, a Farmington Hills attorney, capped just 89 votes.

Montgomery, the sole Democrat in the race, garnered 173 votes.

Caddell and Montgomery will square off Nov. 6 in a special election that will determine which of the two will replace former Commissioner Robert McConnell of Farmington Hills, who resigned his post in late August.

About 400 of the 895 votes cast in the district Friday were made by absentee ballot.

The district includes five precincts in north Farmington Hills, southwest West Bloomfield, Commerce Township, and two precincts in White Lake Township.

"I HAVE CONFIDENCE in my ability to effectively work out a plan," Caddell said this week.

Caddell, 44, said he plans a hard working campaign strategy in the next few weeks, including going door to door throughout the district.

"I'm fortunate to have a diligent, hard-working committee," he said.

Caddell is a member of the Oakland County Republican Executive Committee, organization chairman for the 19th District Republican Committee, direc-



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tor of the Oakland County Republican Lincoln Club, and has been a precinct delegate in county and state elections.

Caddell's opponent, Montgomery, 46, also of Commerce Township, is a political science instructor at Oakland Community College.

Montgomery, who previously lost a bid for the 25th District seat to McConnell, served three terms in the Michigan Legislature from 1955 to 1970.

The candidate elected next month will serve the rest of McConnell's term, which ends on Dec. 31, 1980.

Clerk raps unsolicited ballots

By JUDITH BERNE

Political candidates who send applications for absentee ballots to eligible voters are practicing good politics and performing a public service as well.

That's what Oakland County Election Director Howard Altman says about the absentee ballots — ballots which included an endorsement of Bill Caddell by State Rep. Richard Fessler (R-West Bloomfield) — that were sent to 18 senior citizens.

Caddell was among three candidates running in Friday's election for the 25th District Oakland County Commission seat vacated by Robert McConnell.

Absentee voting applications together with a list of Caddell's qualifications and endorsement by Fessler were received by some West Bloomfield citizens eligible because they were 60 years of age or over.

The mailing included a return envelope pre-addressed to Township Clerk Betty Sue Dupree.

Statutory grounds for voting absentee include age, physical disability and being out of town on election day.

"I don't see any illegality," Altman said. "It's something that candidates are doing more of now. It's becoming more prevalent."

If you were a candidate and you were astute, you would invite people to vote by absentee ballot. And I wouldn't blame you for doing it."

He acknowledged "a lot of clerks don't like it. But it's a two-way street. We often criticize people for not going to the polls."

He said clerks have the opportunity to mail absentee applications to each voter over 60.

"How can they criticize candidates for doing it?" he asked.

THE MAILING provoked at least

two West Bloomfield residents and Clerk Dupree.

Dr. Carl Stevens said he regards the mailing that urged recipients to "please take the time to apply for one (absentee ballot) and vote for Bill Caddell for county commissioner" as improper.

"It is unfair influencing of a vote," he said.

His wife agreed. "We don't even know these three candidates. It's too easy to vote for the one named."

Stevens called Mrs. Dupree to complain, figuring that since her name was on the envelope she knew about the mailing.

"She was incensed," he reported.

Kenneth and Evelyn Swain also received the mailing, although neither have reached the age of 60.

"My husband didn't think it was right," Mrs. Swain said. "Besides, it was premature," referring to the fact that her husband won't be 60 until January.

"It was very deceiving. We thought there was a law against doing it," she said.

"THAT'S ONE OF the fallacies of the law," said Mrs. Dupree. "Anyone can get an absentee ballot. It causes inefficiencies in the clerk's office."

She believes the pre-addressed envelope "gives the connotation I'm pushing a candidate. I don't know any of these candidates. I don't even live in an eligible precinct," the clerk added.

Fessler characterized the move as "an attempt to encourage people to vote. Also, I personally endorse this man for office."

He said "it's Mrs. Dupree's job to check and verify any applicant."

He said the practice of candidates

sending out absentee ballots "is very widespread. It depends on the nature of the election."

"If just a few more people come out and vote — even if it's for the other party — it's beneficial," Fessler said.

Hills resident honored

Louis Zuckerman of Farmington Hills has been named the national president of the New York Life Insurance Company's Top Club for 1979-1980.

The honor is the highest awarded to one of the company's 11,000 sales agents and can only be attained once during the agents' career with New York Life.

It is not the first honor for Zuckerman, who will celebrate his 20th anniversary with the company in December. He was the national vice president of the Top Club in 1972 and has ranked first or second in the four-state East Central Region for a number of years.

He has been a member of the company's Chairman's Council of most outstanding agents since it was founded and has earned the company's Group Leader and Centurion awards, and the insurance industry's National Quality Award for the past 16 years.

Zuckerman, who lives at 31040 Pointe de Woods in Farmington Hills, received his Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) designation in 1963.

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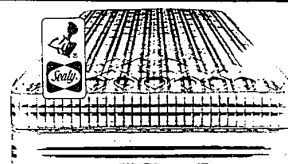
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