

Voter guide to OCC race, tax issue

On the June 9 ballot with local school board elections are a trustee contest and a tax-shift proposition for Oakland Community College.

Three OCC trustees are to be elected for six-year terms. They serve without pay on a seven-member board that meets an average of twice a month.

The board makes policy, approves a \$28-million budget and appoints administrators for a two-year period. It oversees the college's 20,000 students on our campuses: Auburn Hills, Highland Lakes, Orchard Ridge and the Southeast Campus System.

Ten candidates are seeking three posts. Two are incumbents.

THEY WERE asked a series of questions by the

nonpartisan League of Women Voters, which takes no responsibility for any statements made by the candidates. Publication of these statements and opinions is solely in the interest of service to the voters and is in no way to be construed as an endorsement by the League of Women Voters.

Candidates were asked:

- * "Please list occupation, training, experience and qualification for the OCC board.
- * "Question 1. As additional operating funds become necessary, do you prefer increasing tuition and fees or asking for new millage?"
- * "Question 2. Define the role of OCC in terms of meeting the curricular needs of the community (i.e.,

preparation for advanced degrees, vocational, enrichment, etc.)"

THE TAX proposition (text at right) asks voter approval for shifting 0.2 mills from debt service to operations.

As OCC bonds are retired, the plan, if approved, would allow shifting of some money into the operating budget. The total 1.7 mills property tax for OCC would remain the same.

If and when the entire 0.2 mills is shifted, the effect will be to add \$2 million to the operating budget.

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Theodore D. Dziurman

Age 41. 4228 Allegbeny, Troy. Director of administrative services, Neyer, Tiseo & Hlado Ltd., consulting engineers.

Education: BS, civil engineering; MS, industrial engineering. Civic Chairman, Troy Building Code Appeal Board; board of directors, Oakland County Economic Development Commission. Professional: State vice president, MSPE; ASCE; CSI; MSA; registered professional engineering, 1979 "engineer of the year," Oakland chapter MSPE.

1. I believe in balanced sources of revenue for the college using state support, tuition and millage. Over a period of years, this could involve increasing tuition to maintain this balance. Additional total millage over the 1.7 mills now levied should not be needed.

Also I believe greater effort should be made in finding new sources of revenue so that a greater share of operating cost can be obtained from sources other than tuition and the millage.

2. The purpose and objectives of the college, as listed in the latest college catalogue, define the role as I believe, it should be at this time. I believe as a trustee that one of my main functions will be to assure that this purpose and objectives are being followed and fulfilled.

This will include a constant evaluation of the educational relevances of programs to assure they are meeting the needs of the community. I believe one method of accomplishing this evaluation would be more use of citizens advisory committees assisting the college staff and board of trustees in program evaluation.



THEODORE D. DZIURMAN

Robert M. Filiatraud

Age 35. 2352 Bratton, Bloomfield Hills. It is difficult to summarize my background in 50 words. My education in law, finance and accounting requires a page . . . My work as an accountant, lawyer and law professor, a chapter . . . and my wife and daughter, a volume. I'm running for trustee because I know I can do the job.

1. In recent years, property taxes have contributed 38 percent of OCC's operational expenditures; tuition and fees contributed 25 percent. This is a healthy ratio.

If additional funds become necessary, they should be generated accordingly. The 38 percent property tax portion will be maintained as the valuation of assessed property increases. No millage increase should be necessary.

The 25 percent tuition portion can be maintained by adjusting the curriculum to encourage higher enrollment and by increasing tuition and fees. Sound curriculum decisions by the board of trustees are needed to take the burden from tuition.

2. OCC's curriculum must be defined to reflect the diverse educational needs of the community. The board of trustees must avoid undue support in one area at the expense of another.

Curriculum balance is best achieved by continuous review of OCC's service area to insure the community that no educational need is overemphasized and that no need is ignored. Board responsiveness to the community will make OCC educationally viable and financially sound.



ROBERT M. FILIATRAUD

Mariellen Greenbury



MARIELLEN GREENBURY

Age 48. 35675 Greenspring, Farmington Hills. Freelance writer, public relations consultant, Arrowsmith Corp., Southfield; former newspaper reporter; former high school teacher. Graduate, Michigan State University. Civic: Publicity director (found), Greater Farmington Area Family "Y" capital drive; Girl Scout leader; Wooddale PTA board; ruling elder, Presbyterian Church. Resident of Oakland County 22 years.

1. Tuition cannot remain static when wages and prices are rising because of inflation. Cautious increases in tuition are realistic, but should reflect only increased cost of services and programs.

I would favor the current proposition of switching money made available from building fund debt retirement rather than asking taxpayers for additional millage.

2. National statistics today indicate that in community colleges, the ratio of vocational-technical training versus general academic is 75-25 percent, a reversal of 15-20 years ago when 75 percent of students went on to four-year colleges.

Academic programs must be continued, especially for students whose high school training or grades did not permit acceptance in a four-year institution, or for students who cannot, to, or choose not to, spend four years away from home.

Vocational-technical training must be expanded, because 35 percent of today's jobs require training beyond high school, but not four years of college, and community colleges are among the few institutions where such post-high school training is available.



DAVID W. HACKETT

David W. Hackett

Age 56. 1380 Ruby, Rochester. Formerly with Michigan Bell Telephone Co., currently elementary teacher. Degrees: bachelor of philosophy, U of D; master of arts-teaching, WSL. Former trustee, Avondale Board of Education; incumbent trustee, OCC.

Lay reader, St. Philip Episcopal Church. Memberships: DFT; Founders Society, DIA; VFW; Early Ford V-8 Club; NAACP; Common Cause; NOW; Sierra Club.

1. Asking the public for the transfer of 0.2 mills from debt retirement to operating revenue appears to be the best answer to increasing operating costs.

2. Community is the key word. OCC

should, and does, try to respond to present and projected needs of the total county community.

Transfer courses or associate degrees leading to bachelor degrees are, and always have been, prime parts of community college curriculum. Certificates and associate degrees leading directly to employment are presently college priorities.

Attention to the wishes, needs and goals of an increasingly mature population for new job skills, cultural growth, and personal enrichment is a segment of education which Oakland Community College is capable of doing very well.

OCC should listen to and respond to its community.

Margaret A. MacTavish

Age 36. 3919 Mt. Vernon, Birmingham. Currently associate dean of local community college. Education: Master of business administration degree. Previously personnel director of major area hospital.

Qualification: My commitment to and support of the community college and my knowledge of its functions and services; my educational and work background in business administration.

1. Under current economic conditions, the present millage proposal is most appealing since it provides for status quo expenditures by taxpayers.

2. Oakland Community College has the potential to provide "something for everyone." The collective talent of the OCC staff is far greater than the community realizes.

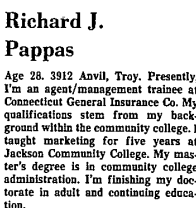
I would seek ways of tapping these resources to increase the impact of OCC on individuals in the community based on their personal goals, whether 1) preparation for transfer to other institutions 2) career preparation and job training, ranging from one course to a certificate or associate degree from OCC or 3) pleasure-leisure courses.

To accomplish this, I believe the board of trustees and staff of OCC have a responsibility to make these talents known throughout the community. When individuals become aware of what OCC has to offer, and what it has done for others, they will be able to decide how to let the college help them attain their personal educational goals.

Richard J. Pappas

Age 28. 3912 Anvil, Troy. Presently, I'm an agent/management trainee at Connecticut General Insurance Co. My qualifications stem from my background within the community college. I taught marketing for five years at Jackson Community College. My master's degree is in community college administration. I'm finishing my doctorate in adult and continuing education.

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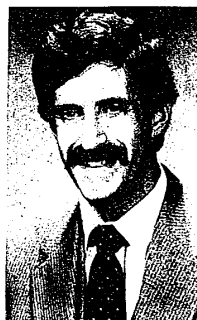
RICHARD J. PAPPAS

and OCC in particular, have a great opportunity to provide a dynamic, exciting and fulfilling brand of education to its local residents.

Whether a student's interest is in transferring to another institution, learning a trade or professional in a vocational-technical program, adjusting to mid-career change or just attending for pure enjoyment, OCC is there for them.

OCC's biggest challenge will be to satisfy not only the 18-year-old but also the adult student. Providing quality programs for minorities, adult women, senior citizens and all other students is the task for the 1980s.

If elected to the board of trustees, it would be my commitment to guarantee quality education for the varied populace of Oakland County.



RICHARD J. PAPPAS

Vernonica Sexton



VERNONICA SEXTON

Age 41. 1466 Rivona, Pontiac. District manager for Oakland Press for 10 years. Attended Macomb Community College, University of Detroit. Past president elementary school board, active 10 years. Know that leadership in our community is important if we are to continue to be a vital part of that community today. Member, American Business Women's Association.

1. Of foremost concern at this time is the rise of inflation. If it becomes economically feasible to allow for additional operating funds, then a minimal

request for an increase in tuition and fees and/or a minimal request for millage might be necessary.

2. The role of Oakland Community College in terms of meeting the needs of the community are many. OCC is a two-year institution of higher learning which provides academic-vocational, general and continuing education opportunities for our community.

OCC has strong programs in such career fields as data processing, culinary arts, food service management (from which my son is graduating in June).



NANCY E. VANGILDER

Nancy E. Vangilder

Age 42. 5348 Greenbriar, West Bloomfield. Self-employed tax consultant. Married, three children. Student, Walsh College of Accountancy and Business.

Associate of arts, OCC. Associate of business administration, OCC. President OCC-Orchard Ridge Student Government, 1977-78. OCC Academic Senate. OCC presidential search committee. OCC-faculty finance committee. Orchard Lake Middle School governance committee.

1. I believe the existing proportions

should be maintained. Tuition should continue to contribute 25 percent of the gross operating need. I support the transfer of 0.2 mills from debt service to operating funds instead of increasing the millage.

2. OCC has continuously improved the curriculum offered to the community. There is still room, however, for improvement in the vocational and advanced degree areas.

The college falls short when it comes to involving the community in its growth and sorely neglects to keep the community aware of its activities.

Barbara J. Willing

Age 27. 126 E. Rowland, Madison Heights. Employed as legal secretary for Gregory Reynolds. I attended OCC two years prior to being elected to the OCC board. I have plans to attend law school in the near future.

I have served on the board for the past four years and have a strong interest in the welfare of the college.

1. OCC has never asked for added millage in the past, and tuition rates have been closely controlled. Tuition remains the best educational buy in the community.

2. OCC's middle name is "community." We are available to citizens who wish to change or improve their career opportunities.

Our short courses are free or are

available at low costs. Our vocational education is improving all the time by adding more programs and bettering the existing programs. We are accredited and the student's credits will transfer to many college throughout the country.

We are always listening to the community and studying all suggestions for new programs. OCC should continue to grow and enrich the community.



BARBARA J. WILLING

John J. Yezman Jr.

Age 30. 922 Beryl, Rochester. Self-employed, proprietor of Avon Gun Shop in Avon Township. Resident of Oakland County 30 years. Attended Northern Michigan University, Oakland Community College and the University of Detroit. Earned bachelor of science degree, certified teacher. Single, currently living in Avon Township.

1. Tuition should be increased for inflation adjustment only. Not from millage. If passed, it will establish a precedent.

The administration and a pro-administration board of trustees are asking the taxpayers to bear the burdens of their mismanagement. In spite of their secret meetings, these facts have emerged:

A. With our depressed economy, why is there so much planning of new construction when this should be a period of belt-tightening?

B. Why must there be a provost and several deans at each campus making exorbitant salaries when colleges with twice their student population have only half this staff?

2. Programs that OCC offers are the best in the tri-county area. The faculty, staff and maintenance that are well qualified make this possible.

But there is a gap between them and the administration evidenced by the large amount of grievances filed. The administrators all want to be in charge but not accountable.

President Rood's must bear full responsibility for the lack of working cohesion. If this situation is not rectified, the students and community will continue to be affected.



JOHN J. YEZMAN JR.

Ballot wording of OCC tax proposition

To be levied only as a replacement for corresponding reductions in building bond debt service tax levies, shall the limitation on the property taxes in the Oakland Community College District, State of Michigan, (except taxes levied for building bond debt which are not subject to limit) be increased by not to exceed 2/10 mill (20 cents per \$1,000 for the year 1981 and each year thereafter of the state equalized valuation of the district)?

Yes () No ()