

GOP loses Dunn, Bishop; keeps 2 state reps

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Oakland County voters were responsible for several upsets in state legislative races and ousted one incumbent county commissioner.

In the 8th state Senate District, Democrat Philip O. Mastin of Pontiac upset Republican state Sen. Donald E. Bishop of Rochester. Mastin is a former three-term state representative.

Mastin received 38,517 votes or 52 percent, and Bishop received 33,987 votes or 44 percent. Tish Independent Citizens Party candidate Gwen Dempsey got 3,306 votes or 4 percent.

The addition of Pontiac to the district helped tip the balance against Bishop, a 12-year veteran of the Legislature who had hoped to become Senate majority leader.

Pontiac's Democratic leanings also figured in the defeat of Republican U.S. Rep. Jim Dunn after one term. Pontiac was added to Dunn's 6th District, which was won by former Congressman Bob Carr of East Lansing.

REAPPORTIONMENT made it difficult for Democrat George Suarez of Madison Heights to hold onto the 16th state Senate District seat formerly held by Democrats Bill Hoffman, who resigned last December, and Dana Wilson, who won a special election.

Reapportionment moved the district northward and made it 56 percent Republican, allowing state Rep. Doug Cruce, R-Troy, to capture it with 45,555 votes to Suarez's 37,081 and Libertarian David Gravin's 955.

In the 17th state Senate District race, Republican state Rep. Richard Fessler of Union Lake was an easy winner with 54,246 votes over Democrat E. Leonard Howarth of Rose Township with 27,156. Tish candidate Hugh J. Brotherton of White Lake Township received 3,878 votes and Libertarian James Rayman 984 votes.

The victory was a Republican gain. Before reapportionment, the 17th District had been represented by Democrat Kerry Kammer, who ran unsuccessfully for the gubernatorial nomination.

The 15th Senate District stayed Democratic. Sen. Jack Faxon, formerly

of Detroit, moved to Southfield and won with 50,558 votes over Republican John Anderson with 39,920 and Libertarian Gordon N. Beerbower with 906. Faxon replaces Sen. Doug Ross, who lost a bid for a congressional nomination.

IN THE STATE HOUSE of Representatives, reapportionment pitted incumbents against each other in two races, and Republicans won both contests.

In the 61st District, freshman Rep.

Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, beat veteran Claude A. Trim, D-Davidsburg. Dunaskis had 15,167 votes (54 percent) and Trim 13,131 (46 percent).

In the 68th District, freshman Rep. Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, was the winner with 19,395 votes (57 percent) over veteran Gary Vanek, D-Royal Oak, who got 14,646 (43 percent).

Other results for state House districts:

• 24th District — Republican Rob-

ert D. McGee of Commerce won with 15,132 votes. Democrat George F. Montgomery of Commerce got 11,329 votes. Libertarian R. Scott Davidson received 589 votes. The district formerly was represented by Republican Fessler, who was elected to the Senate.

• 63rd District — Republican Gordon Sparks of Troy won with 19,727 votes. Democrat Vicki L. Krenn of Avon Township got 11,154 votes. This district formerly was represented by

Cruce, who was elected to the Senate.

• 64th — Democrat Maxine Ber-

man of Southfield easily won with 20,959 votes in this new district. She beat Republican Henry G. Leeds of Southfield, who got 8,990 votes.

• 66th — Democrat Wilfred D. Webb of Hazel Park retained the seat with 14,378 votes, even though his district moved north with reapportionment. He beat Terry Nalon of Troy, who got 6,835 votes.

• 69th — Republican W.V. Brotherton of Farmington easily retained the seat with 23,147 votes while Democrat challenger Aldo Vagnoni of Farmington Hills received 9,100 votes. Libertarian Randolph G. Snella of Farmington Hills got 845.

ONLY ONE seat changed hands on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. Republican Leroy Cagney of Milford Township was defeated by Democrat William J. Foley of Milford by 5,482 to 5,173.

Mester keeps judicial seat

Incumbent Circuit Judge Fred M. Mester narrowly defeated challenger Thomas Giles Kavanagh Jr. for an Oakland County circuit judge post.

Mester, 45, was appointed in June to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Judge Farrell Roberts. Because Roberts' resignation didn't take effect until after filing deadline, Mester found himself facing a re-election challenge.

Mester, of Huntington Woods, received 115,051 votes or 52 percent. Kavanagh, 36, of Pleasant Ridge, received 107,582 votes or 48 percent.

Mester expressed concern early in the campaign about running against a "name candidate." The senior Kavanagh is a justice on the state Supreme Court.

He attributed his victory to volunteers who helped spread his name around the county. "A lot of people and a lot of hard work helped me get elected," Mester said.

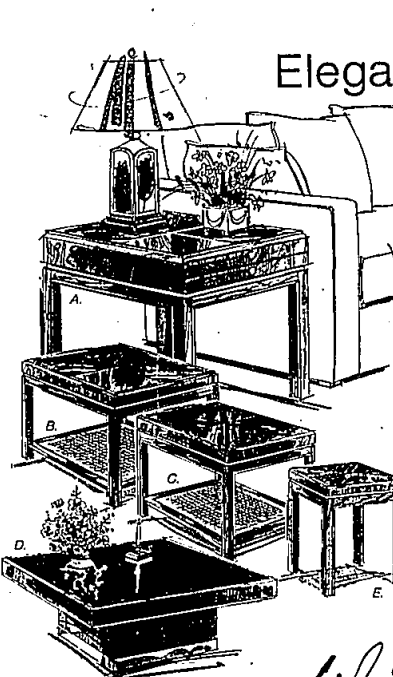
"I had a criminal case going for the past two weeks and wasn't able to get out a lot. But I had a lot of help," he added.

Kavanagh said he was surprised by the large number of votes he received and was "delighted by all the support."

"I am very proud of the numbers of people who turned out at the polls and to help me. I had 250 people working with me on election night," he said.

Kavanagh said he was determined to run a positive campaign, not one filled with mudslinging, and he was happy at its outcome.

He said it is too early to tell if the future will bring him on the campaign trail again.



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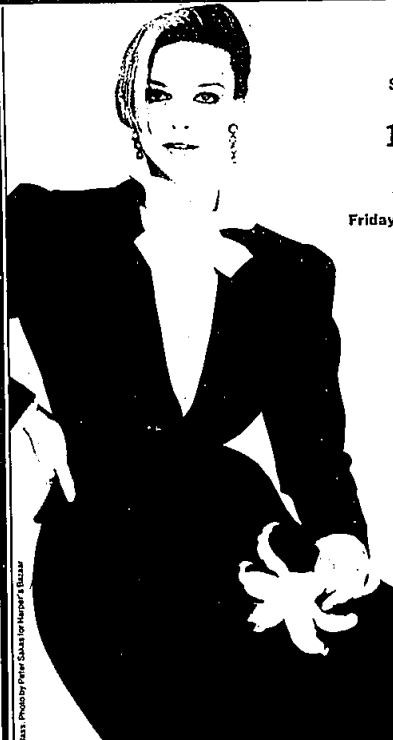
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