

Democrats welcome Kavanagh back into fold

By Kathy Parrish
staff writer

Party unity was the cry at the Michigan Democratic State Party Convention. And that meant putting aside some grudges.

Bracing for a tough Supreme Court fight, Democrats welcomed back into the fold proven votegetter Justice Thomas Giles Kavanagh.

The Troy resident was dropped by the party in a dispute eight years ago. But Sunday he was unanimously nominated for a third term.

It was a joyful moment for the life-long Democrat, who beamed as his eight young grandchildren paraded around the convention hall shouting his name.

"All my life, I've worked in and loved the Democratic Party beyond words. I was then and am now and God willing will always be a Democrat," the judge said.

KAVANAGH IS ONE of three Democrats unanimously nominated by the party to run for the Michigan Supreme Court in November. Other candidates are Justice Patricia L. Boyle and Wayne County Circuit Judge James A. Hathaway.

At their state convention Sept. 7 and 8 in Cobo Hall, Republicans are expect-

Justice joins Boyle, Hathaway as court nominees

ed to nominate former Sen. Robert Griffin, Justice James Brickley and Dorothy Comstock Riley.

Named by Gov. William Milliken to Justice Blair Moody Jr.'s unfinished term after Moody's death, Riley stayed on into the new term he had just won. She was ousted by the court, and Gov. James Blanchard appointed Boyle to the seat.

BOTH POLITICAL parties place high priority on the upcoming Supreme Court elections — which are expected to be especially hot because of the court issue.

After months of speculation about which seat she'd challenge, Riley Tuesday said she will take on Kavanagh.

In an emotional moment during the convention, Boyle was nominated by Moody's son, Blair.

No one is more deserving than Justice Boyle to carry on my father's tradition. She must be retained on this election to retain that seat."

Republicans are trying to politicize the bench, said Rick Wiener, Democrat state party chairman. "It's an important court, and we don't use it as a political dumping ground for has-beens," he said.



Thomas G. Kavanagh

"We must continue to put forth to the voters people who will be good justices. "Whatever disagreements we have with Justice Kavanagh, he calls them as he sees them."

WHILE ALWAYS a Democrat, Kavanagh was not renominated by the party eight years ago after he indicated he would support for re-election two Republican colleagues, Lawrence Lin-

election '84

demer and James Ryan. Instead, the Democrats put Roman S. Gribbe on the ticket.

Kavanagh ran as an independent and easily won re-election. His election was helped by fund-raising efforts of former presidents of the Michigan Bar Association, who were upset that the Democrats wouldn't endorse him.

At the time, Kavanagh expressed disappointment over the party's action.

He said he probably wouldn't run again for office.

But Kavanagh is back in the race, campaigning both for himself and his attorney son Thomas Giles Kavanagh Jr., who is running for Oakland County Circuit Court judge.

DURING CAUCUSES Saturday, the senior Kavanagh asked party members to support his candidacy this year as they did 16 years ago.

"For years, I worked as a loyal Democrat," he told the 17th Congressional District caucus.

"But once on the bench, that was forbidden. My heart was there, but my feet weren't."

"I'm very grateful to the Democratic

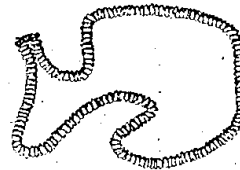
Party for nominating me, enjoy my work and hope to continue it."

NOMINATED BY former General Motors Corp. counsel Otis Smith, Kavanagh's nomination selection was urged by 2nd District chairman George Salade.

"Sixteen years ago, through your nomination, I was enabled to win election to the Michigan Supreme Court. That has meant everything to me since," said Kavanagh, who previously was on the Michigan Court of Appeals.

After his nomination, Kavanagh said he was grateful for the warm reception he received at the state convention.

"I'm glad everybody realizes I'm still in the fold," he said with a smile. "I haven't changed."



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Chamber blasts 'Voters' Choice'

Voters' Choice, a Nov. 6 ballot proposal intended to control taxes, would cripple state government and be especially damaging to business, the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce declared after its August board meeting. "It was the unanimous feeling of the chamber board of directors that Voters' Choice contradicts the fundamentals of a republican or representative government," said Chamber Chairman Don C. Becker.

"It frees elected officials from the responsibility of setting policy in the most important matters — taxing and spending," said Becker, president of the Detroit Free Press.

THE CHAMBER board adopted this

following policy statement:

"The chamber recognizes and is sympathetic to citizens concerned over state taxing and spending.

"While we urge our lawmakers and state officials to establish and maintain responsible fiscal policies and practices, and to show the greatest possible restraint in spending, we find the Voter's Choice proposal does not represent sound long-term public policy. The chamber opposes the Voter's Choice proposal."

Voters' Choice is the product of 26 anti-tax groups. Its best known spokesman is Richard H. Headlee, president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of Farmington Hills and 1982 Re-

publican nominee for governor.

HAROLD DUBROWSKY, managing partner, Alexander Grant & Co. and chairman of the chamber's Taxation Committee, which is responsible for analysis and recommendation of the

Voters' Choice issue, told chamber directors:

"Michigan will be ill-served by such a system, where complex tax matters are ducked by lawmakers and dumped on the ballot in summary fashion."

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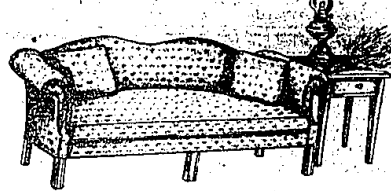
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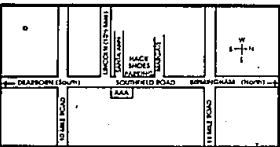
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