

It's official: Blanchard announces for 2nd term

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Other candidates for governor hold a series of announcements — one in Detroit, another in Grand Rapids and two or three others in out-state cities.

Not Jim Blanchard.

The 43-year-old governor announced he would seek a second term just once — in the gymnasium of his old elementary school, Roosevelt School, in Ferndale.

It's a long block west of Woodward amidst solid, two-story, brick, suburban homes.

"THIS IS where he grew up. These are the people who supported the governor — family, friends, early supporters," said Lisa Grayson, campaign press secretary.

"We seek a very creative way to tell the people of Michigan what we're doing," she said.

Blanchard's announcement that he would seek a second four-year term was no surprise and lasted only three minutes. There were no new themes,

no new programs to be unveiled. "Together we must keep our comeback alive. And together we must move Michigan forward," he said.

THERE ARE indications Blanchard will keep a low profile on issues. In his State of the State speech, he repeatedly used the words "continue" and "more of the same," proposing few new programs.

Grayson was unable to say yet what issues Blanchard will campaign on in 1988.

And the only banners visible in the Roosevelt School gymnasium were home-made ones penned by supporters.

The governor will hold a news conference in Pleasant Ridge today and make a seven-city campaign swing June 3-4, Grayson said.

Blanchard's re-election announcement was only a few blocks away from where he announced his candidacy in 1982 for governor.

Recalling that announcement, he said "I believe in Michigan."



Announcing for a second term as governor, James Blanchard said he has come a long way to realizing two goals: 'to rescue our state from bankruptcy and put people back to work.'

HE ALSO said he had come a long way to realizing his twin goals as governor: "to rescue our state from bankruptcy and put people back to work."

"Together, under fire, we have proven the naysayers and hand-wringers wrong," he said.

The governor was flanked by his wife, Paula, and 15-year-old son Jay, at the announcement.

After making his brief announce-

ment speech, Blanchard plunged into a cheering crowd and shook hands with his friends and supporters.

Blanchard faces only token opposition to winning the Democratic nomination in the Democratic primary election Aug. 6.

A Lyndon LaRouche follower, Henry Hank Wilson, has announced that he will seek the Democratic nomination.

AT LEAST five Republican candidates will battle it out to become the GOP nominee and face Blanchard in the November election.

Blanchard became the state's first Democratic governor in 20 years when he defeated Republican Richard Headlee in the 1982 gubernatorial election.

He won the election by 191,709 votes out of some 3-million votes cast.

Blanchard graduated from Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in history and economics in 1984.

He added a master's degree in business from MSU the next year and earned a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1988.

HE WAS IN state employment from 1965 to 1974 — as a legal advisor in the secretary of state's office and an assistant attorney general — when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for 13 communities in Oakland and Macomb counties.

He served four terms in Congress before running for governor and gained a lot of attention when he helped shepherd through the U.S. House legislation which provided federal help for the Chrysler Corp.

One of Blanchard's first moves as governor was to engineer a temporary increase in the state personal income tax rate, which led to several recall campaigns.

Two launched against Democratic state legislators were successful but the campaign to recall Blanchard provided little.

1,000 youth jobs are open in Oakland

Applications are being accepted by the Michigan Youth Corps for 1,000 jobs in Oakland County.

This is the fourth year the state is providing 12,500 summer jobs for unemployed youth.

Robert Larsen of the Oakland County Intermediate School District, which administers the program in the county, and state Labor Director Elizabeth Howe urged hopeful candidates aged 18-21 to apply as soon as possible.

Some jobs begin as early as June 2.

Applications may be made at all local high school placement offices.

They also may be made at Michigan Employment Security offices at 17 Glenwood Plaza, Pontiac, and 401 E. Thirteen Mile, Madison Heights; and at Oakland University near Rochester.

Oakland's plans include renovation of a cabin and cleanup of Hazelwoods Park in Hazel Park; counseling and working with handicapped children in a Troy program; improving the appearance of the Village of Holly; and renovating a farm donated by a family to Waterford Township for a local museum and recreational area.



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