Patterson sees shift toward death penalty

A confident L. Brooks Patterson sees "an explosion" of public interest in the death penalty. The Oaktand Gounty presecutor said his petition drive has a sudden momentum, and the odds are "above 60-40" that his proposed constitutional amendment will be on the Nov. 4 stale ballot. "Wer're seeing a tremendous shift of public opinion," Patterson told a naves conference Wednesday morning.

news conference weenessay morning.

He announced that a "milestone"
— 240,000 petition signatures — has
been reached. State law requires
304,001 signatures by the July 7
deadline.

Patterson said he wants 100,000 more signatures, for a total of

ONLY A MONTH ago Patterson was only 50 percent hopeful that enough signatures would be collected. But recent news events have prompted requests for 28,000 petition forms. The prosecutor cited. In the conviction of the killers of a Wayne' State University graduate student, his wife and 9-month-old son that the killers "should ride a lightening boil to eternity."

Revelations that 71 men convicted of first-degree murder were serving their mandatory life sentence, minimum-security trusty camps. The list included six from Oakland County.

To Assistant Wayne County Pro-

Closing his second campaign for the death penalty, Patterson vowed that if this one failed, there wouldn't be a

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secutor George Ward's remarks that "we lock 'cm up and throw away the key," Patterson retorted, "We don't lock 'cm up. We treat 'em far, far too lightly."

• The state Corrections Department's announcement that it would fence 13 trusty camps. Patterson called it "a day late and a dollar short."

"I REALLY don't want to win at that cost," said Patterson, adding he would prefer to convince voters on the merits of the issue rather than see them inflamed by a homicidal blandhalk.

As evidence that interest in the drive is suddenly picking up, Patter-

son said:
The Fraternal Order of Police recently picked up 10,000 petition

forms,

• Life Action Ministry, a group of
western Michigan churches headquartered in Niles, asked for 10,000
relition forms

of cases.

• The murder of 77-year-old twin sisters in Detroit.

• The murder of an Otsego County deputy sheriff.

• This week; Florida court sentencing of a Michigan man to the electric chair for a murder spree.

• A statistical study which Patterson said shows *a baby born in Detroit has a greater chance of being shot and killed than a soldier in World War II.* polition form.

• His office phone — 858-855 in Ponitac — is being flooded with calls from individuals who have been sent 6,000 petition forms. Waving four sheets of mailing labels, Patterson called out "Livonia ... Westland ... Three Rivers ... Inkster

. . . Sterling Heights."
In addition, his campaign office will send 22,000 post cards to persons who have received petitions but haven't returned them yet. Patterson encouraged them to return the forms, even if they don't have the full 15 signatueres aplece.

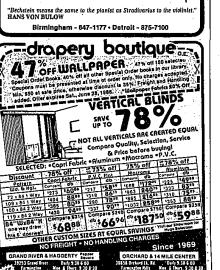
full 15 signatueres apiece.

CLOSING HIS second campaign, for the death penalty, Patterson; vowed that if this one failed, there wouldn't be a third. "I'll turn the files over to some young Turk and let them take over."

His 1982 campaign collected 309,000 signatures with 278,000 validones needed, but the Secretary of State's office ruled there weren't enough valid signatures.

If the proposal reaches the ballot, polis show that 75 percent of Michiganians would support it, he said.





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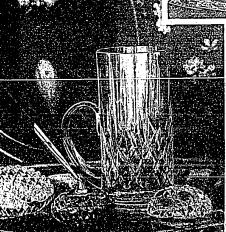
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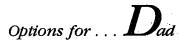


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