Poll favors Ternan; 'strange,' says Cooper

Onkland County circuit judge candidate Jessica Cooper says there is something "very strange and unusual" about a lawyers' poli in which she fares worse than her opponent, Rochester Hills city attorney **Law-**

Rochester Hins cay anomy renee Terman.
"Two-thirds of Oakland County attorneys are in Southfield, and they didn't get their ballots until two days before the deadline," said Cooper, who is chief judge of the Southfield District Court

"The bar poll was run by one of Ternan's high supporters. There was something very strange and unusu-al."

TERNAN SAID Cooper's claims

wcre "ridiculous" and a "smokes-creen" to obscure the fact that he received better scores than she did from the Oakland Couty Bar Associ-ation's judicial preference poll. The poll, completed in September, showed: • "Preferred and well qualified" — Ternan, 56 percent; Cooper, 35 percent.

percent.

• "Qualified" — Cooper, 37 percent; Ternan, 25 percent.

• "Not qualified" — Cooper, 18 percent; Ternan, 2 percent.

THERE WERE 895 ballots re-turned in this year's poll, a slight in-crease from two years ago when the first survey was taken, said Kathryn Gilbert, executive director for the county bar association. A bag of ballots mailed Sept. 5 did

go to the wrong post office, said Gilbert, a Southfield resident who didn't receive her ballet until Sept. 16.
They were due Sept. 19 although Gilbert said ballots received as late as Sept. 24 were counted.
"We did have a problem with the mail," she said. "It certainly wasn't deliberate."
Gilbert discounted any continue.

deliberate."

Illiert discounted any partisanship since "by a fluke" a Cooper supporter and a Ternan supporter were selected to run the poll prior to the rimmry election.

Cooper and Ternan finished first and second in the August nonpartisan primary. They will meet in the Nov. 4 election to see who replaces retiring Judge Frederick Ziem.

THE SCUFFLE about the bar poll surfaced Tuesday during the candidates first face-to-face meeting before the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club.

Alter relatively innocuous opening remarks, the candidates heated up when, in response from questions from the audience, they began comparing their endorsements.

Ternan said in les endorsed by live Oaktand circuit judges, a federal district judges including Clarence A. Reid, Judges and the season of t

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torney who to vote for," he told Tuesday's audience.

BOTH CANDIDATES stressed the race is nonpartisan, but said in sepa-rate interviews that Republican en-dorsements were going to Ternan and Democratic endorsements to Cooper.
In fact, Cooper said an invitation

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to speak before the Rochester Re-publican Women's Club was rescind-de because members thought she was a Democrat. Both clalmed to have significant law enforcement endorsements. During her opening remarks, Coo-per said she was the better candidate because, as a district fudies, she has

bruing for opening tolants, copensal six was the better candidate because, as a district judge, she has a handled "jud stabout ever type of case there is."

In addition to being part of a three-judge court that processes 35,000 cases a year, Cooper said she is well versed in criminal cases and, because many circuit court, has heard lawatis with awards of up to \$1.6 million.

She said she has the "judicial demeanor" to be a circuit court judge.

Ternan said that during 21 years of circuit court trial experience he

of circuit court trial experience he has developed the "temperament" needed to "gain respect for the

court."

He stressed the need for swift punishment following convictions. "I think too often courts have lost sight of the fact that society should be safe," he said.

Each candidate expected to spend well over \$100,000 during their cam-



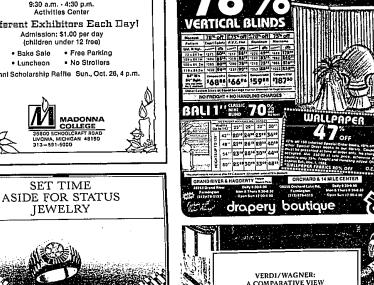


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