

# Lucas, Blanchard hit most state issues

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

The TV cameras were on William Lucas when the Republican challenger said, "The people of Detroit live in fear of crime because (Gov.) Jim Blanchard lives in fear of Coleman Young."

But the Nov. 4 gubernatorial rivals also covered prisons, economic growth, taxes, local government, abortion and gun control — as well as Mayor Young — in their debate Monday before the Economic Club of Detroit and in a 22-minute news conference.

Blanchard stressed his record in economic redevelopment, introducing no new plans.

Here is a rundown of the issues and where each candidate stands:



William Lucas  
Republican challenger

Describing the Detroit situation as a "slow, endless riot," Lucas, the Wayne County executive for four years and sheriff for 14 years, vowed his first act as governor would be to issue an executive order "declaring a crime emergency exists in Detroit, taking over the Detroit Police Department and coordinating it with the Michigan State Police."

Lucas said he would deal with young offenders by setting up a new youth detention unit, taking jurisdiction away from the state Department of Social Services.

Blanchard, completing his first term as governor after eight years in the U.S. Congress, said homicide rates rose only 13 percent statewide and 80 percent in Wayne County during Lucas' tenure in county government. "He flunked the test as sheriff," Blanchard said.

The Democratic governor said a high priority is 10,000 new prison cells, "including 5,000 by the end of this year. That's 5,000 fewer criminals on the streets than in the days of the early release program before I took office."

"COMEBACK STATE?" Blanchard said studies relating Michigan's business climate 48th really "measured the percentage of unionization."

"Michigan led the nation in new manufacturing investment — more than California and Texas combined. It's the small business hotspot of the Midwest," with an "Automation Alley" of high technology rivaling California's.

Lucas said, "You hear about star-

**'A crime emergency exists in Detroit — a slow, endless riot.'**

— William Lucas  
challenger

**'He flunked the test as sheriff.'**

— James J. Blanchard  
governor



James J. Blanchard  
Democratic governor

cost of doing business — unemployment compensation, worker's comp, liability insurance and the single business tax.

Blanchard said the state now is gaining population while, on balance, unemployment has been cut in half.

The governor said that in his first term, SBT has been cut \$18 million, banking has been deregulated, franchise laws have been eased and securities laws simplified to make it easier for business to locate in Michigan.

"Our 350,000 new jobs make us sixth in the nation in job growth. We led the nation in new manufacturing investment," Blanchard said, adding "Chrysler wouldn't spend \$1 bil-

lion here and \$1 billion in Oakland County if they didn't think Michigan was a good place to do business."

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

At the news conference, Lucas said "of course" he would seek changes in the county home rule act so that Oakland, Macomb and others "can have what Wayne County has." (Wayne County's reform charter was written under a special act that applies only to Wayne, though other counties would like to follow suit.)

Blanchard, eight minutes late, had no chance to answer the question. In his speech, he did say a future priority would be "rebuilding downtown" in cities besides Detroit, a subject Lucas didn't address.

## SCHOOL TAXES:

A bill by state Sen. Dan DeGrow, R-Port Huron, revives an old idea of sharing industrial property taxes among all school districts. It has many suburban schools up in arms.

Lucas said, "I'm not familiar with the DeGrow bill. I'm very much in favor of a different distribution of school funding. No one has come up with a solution yet."

Late, Blanchard didn't get to address the question. State Treasurer Robert Bowman said the governor hadn't seen the bill yet.

## COLLEGE TUITIONS:

Lucas said, "On a policeman's salary, we sent six children to private colleges and most through medical school... without any government assistance. We made sacrifices."

He said the Lucases couldn't have afforded the BEST tuition investment program that Blanchard has made top priority for 1988.

Pooh-poohing the idea of a state investment program, Lucas said, "Look at the Zilwaukee Bridge and the People Mover."

Blanchard shot back that Lucas' running mate, state Rep. Colleen Engler of Mount Pleasant, supported the BEST bill, now locked up in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The Blanchard administration "doubled the number of students receiving grants and increased state support for higher education 45 percent," he said.

"In response to our call, the universities and colleges froze tuition for two years so they'd remain truly public."

## FEDERAL-LOCAL RELATIONS:

Citing the strong political support he has received from President Reagan, Lucas said, "Under no circumstances would Gov. Lucas call the president 'Mr. Pruneface,'" as Mayor Young had.

"Nor would I," Blanchard replied, publicly thanking Reagan for assistance to Michigan farmers.

Blanchard cited Livonia Mayor Ed McNamara, the Democratic nominee to succeed Lucas as Wayne County executive, as "part of our winning team."

Blanchard said Lucas had gone "hat in hand" to try to win Young's support and failed. "Hell hath no fury like a politician scorned," he said.

Lucas said he had "co-existed" with Young for 16 years.

## ABORTION:

Blanchard said, "Abortion is a choice of a woman, her family and physician. Government should not be making it for them." He supported, state-paid abortions for women on welfare.

"I'm extremely proud to be the Right-to-Life candidate," said Lucas. "I don't believe anyone, rich or poor, has the right to take a human life."

## GUN CONTROL:

Blanchard preferred to "fully enforce existing laws" over banning handguns.

Lucas said only a nationwide ban on handguns, not a city or state ban, would work.

## Parsell hits trooper idea

The former president of the Detroit Police Officers Association (DPOA) and head of a statewide police organization today attacked a proposal by Republican gubernatorial candidate William Lucas to attack the Detroit crime problem by bringing in state troopers.

Carl Parsell, director of the Michigan Association of Police (MAP) and seven-term president of the DPOA, said the Detroit needs funds for more police offi-

cers but not state troopers.

Parsell noted that troopers' top base pay is approximately \$2,000 more per year than a Detroit police officer, and that troopers working in Detroit receive an additional 30 cents an hour "hazard pay" for working in Detroit.

Detroit police are among the lowest paid in the metro area, Parsell said, "and they don't receive hazard pay for doing the job."

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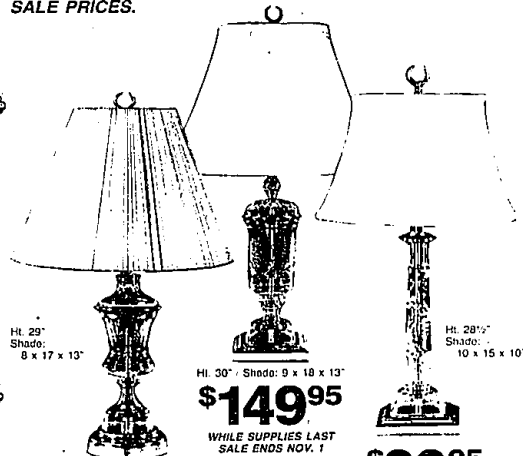
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