

Campaign itself is issue in court race

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Oakland voters face only one countywide race in Tuesday's election. It's non-partisan, but it has turned into a heavy battle.

It's the race for circuit judge between Jessica Cooper, 40, a Southfield district judge, and Lawrence P. Terman, 46, Rochester Hills city attorney and general practitioner. The campaign has revolved less around issues — lawyers' rules prevent them from discussing how they would rule on a case if elected judge — and more on campaign behavior. Cooper and Terman have both got in their licks.

COOPER LAST week filed a grievance with the State Bar Association charging Terman with "blatant untruth" in an endorsement claim. Her campaign manager, Barry Howard, said the incident occurred Oct. 14 at a debate sponsored by a



Cooper

Terman

Republican women's group in Birmingham. Howard said he didn't know how long it would take the Bar to process the charge.

Cooper, Terman and an Observer & Eccentric reporter agreed that Terman told the gathering he had received a Fraternal Order of Police endorsement.

"How someone who wants to be a judge can stand in front of groups and say with a straight face he's been endorsed by a group that endorses me speaks volumes about his qualifications," Cooper said in a written statement.

A mistake with no intent to deceive, Terman replied.

"I do have the endorsement of the FOP judge for the southern part of Oakland County. She has the Michigan FOP."

He said he made the statement due to a misunderstanding. A supporter told him "the" FOP had endorsed him. Terman said he didn't discover until 10 days later that it was the southern Oakland lodge, not the state organization.

Terman said Friday he had yet to receive a copy of Cooper's grievance.

TERMAN HAD his shot earlier in the campaign when his committee filed suit in Oakland Circuit Court charging Cooper with trying to mislead voters into believing she is an incumbent circuit judge.

The basis of his claim was that Cooper used the word "district" in much smaller type than the word "judge" on billboards, parade signs, campaign buttons and T-shirts.

The case was first assigned to Judge Robert Anderson, but Anderson, who had endorsed Terman, disqualified himself. It was reassigned to Judge Norman Lippitt.

"There was no court ruling," Terman said. "There was a three-hour hearing, and I was on the stand 1½ hours."

After a huddle, he said, Cooper's lieutenants agreed to add the word "district" to the campaign committee's name and to increase the size of the word "district" in signs and literature.

DISTRICT JUDGES handle smaller civil suits, misdemeanors and pre-trial examinations in felony cases. Oakland County has 14 districts or divisions, most covering a handful of communities.

Circuit judges have countywide jurisdiction over criminal cases, major civil suits and divorce matters. There are 13 circuit judges.

Cooper ran first in the five-candidate primary with 32,742, and Terman was a distant second with 17,023.

Then there was an interesting development.

Two of the non-winners — Martin Krohn and William E. Ziem — endorsed Terman. The third non-winner, Circuit Court administrator Joan Young, made no endorsement, but her husband, Thomas L. Schellenberg, announced his support for Terman.

SINCE THEN, it has been a battle of endorsements.

Cooper boasts the backing of 1,000 attorneys, the Michigan Trial Lawyers Association (a group of plaintiffs' attorneys representing 10 percent of the State Bar), the Oakland District Judges Association, the Women's Bar Association of Oakland County and three police officers' groups — the Southfield Police Officers Association, the state POA, the state FOP and the Oakland Deputy Sheriffs Association.

Terman has lined up virtually all Republican officeholders, five circuit judges; Federal Judge George LaPlata (a former circuit judge); former judges William Hampton and Robert Webster; four district judges, including Cooper's fellow 46th district judge, Clarence A. Reid; and 400 attorneys.

Winner will succeed retiring Judge Frederick Ziem. Four incumbent circuit judges are unopposed.

Standard Federal to sell stock

Standard Federal Bank, headquartered in Troy, has received Federal Home Loan Bank Board approval to convert from a mutual savings bank to a stock form of ownership.

The conversion is expected by the end of the year, according to Thomas R. Ricketts, chairman and president of Standard Federal.

The bank will offer 23 million shares of common stock at a maximum subscription price of \$15 per share. Standard Federal has applied to the New York Stock Exchange for listing of its stock.

Proceeds raised from the stock sale will be used for loans and investments, expanding financial services and possible acquisitions.

The stock will be offered to eligible depositors and borrowers of the bank and will then be available to residents of Michigan and Indiana and other persons to whom the offering circular is delivered in a subscription and community offering. Any remaining shares will be sold in a public offering underwritten by Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith and Salomon Brothers.

Standard Federal will hold a series of investor meetings throughout the area beginning Nov. 12 and running through Dec. 5. Bank employees will be available to discuss the conversion.

A toll-free telephone number has been set up for those seeking more information regarding the conversion. Call 1-800-233-6575 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Standard Federal is a \$7.5 billion financial institution with 83 branch offices located in Michigan and Indiana.

Blood type clinic at OCC

The public may attend a free blood testing and typing clinic 5-7 p.m. today at Oakland Community College's Highland Lakes Campus, 7350 Cooley Lake Road, Union Lake.

Medical assisting students also will read blood pressures, heights and weights. The clinic will be in 206 Highland Hall.

On Wednesday, the medical assisting department will host an information session and tour of the Highland Lakes Campus from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for interested high schools. Call the department at 360-3667 to make arrangements.

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