

Victor outspends in 4-way county prosecutor race

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

Richard Thompson outspent his closest competitor in the Republican primary for prosecutor by almost \$150,000, according to campaign finance reports filed Thursday with the Oakland County Clerk's Office.

Thompson, who won the Aug. 2 primary by getting more votes than all three GOP rivals combined, spent \$238,109. He raised \$239,490 for the campaign, including \$145,000 he loaned his campaign.

Oakland County Commissioner Jack McDonald, who finished second in the primary 20,124 votes behind Thompson, spent \$88,229. Jeffrey-M. Leib, who finished third, spent \$193,350.

State Sen. Richard D. Fessler, who finished a distant fourth in the campaign, did not meet the reporting deadline, according to the clerk's office. He is subject to a \$10 per day late filing fee, said Howard Altman, director of the clerk's elections division.

Barry E. Kraemer, who was unopposed for the Democratic nomination, raised \$9,110 and spent \$1,025. The GOP primary — likely the most expensive in county history — featured four prominent attorneys hoping to succeed outgoing prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, who did not seek re-election after 16 years in office.

"I'm not surprised at the amount of money the candidates spent," said Patterson, referring to the more than \$500,000 spent by all candidates combined. "That's a reflection of the high cost of a good media campaign and the ravages of inflation. I spent about \$60,000 on my first campaign."

Thompson, who was chief assistant to Patterson for 16 years, garnered 38,161 votes in the primary. His campaign finance report named more than 180 contributors, including Lillian Hopkins, a housewife in Brighton, who gave \$2,325.

McDonald, a Farmington Hills attorney and member of the Oakland County Commission, received 16,037 votes in the primary. His report listed about 75 contributors, with \$1,000 from the Political Action Committee of the Oakland County Future Fund and \$1,000 from Farmington Hills contractor Michael C. Sullivan.

Leib, who lives in West Bloomfield Township and practices law in Southfield, loaned his own campaign about \$77,000. His report listed about 120 contributors, including \$1,000 each from M.S. Klein, an executive with Max Klein Inc., Southfield; Joel D. Tauber of Tauber Investments in Southfield; and Southfield attorney Leslie Nell Greenwald.

How to pick president? College class offers tips

By Mary Rodrigue
staff writer

'It's a real delight to teach people who are in class because they want to be there; they're not obligated.'

— Noreen Thomas

Warren G. Harding was lousy; Abraham Lincoln one of the best. And how do Michael Dukakis and George Bush rate?

To find out, tune in to "Perspectives on the Presidency," a new class offered by Schoolcraft College beginning Sept. 22.

"People generally have some background on the issues," said Conrad Behler, instructor. "We're going to focus on what's involved in being president. We'll look at men who did the job well and those who didn't."

BEHLER, WHO cites curriculum innovation as one of his strong suits, sees the class as both a historical review of the nation's highest office and a contemporary political science class.

"We'll be looking at a few interesting election years where the outcome was decided by a quirk of some kind," he said. "Finally, we'll be examining the issues and candidates of 1988."

Behler has taught high school history and government for more than 20 years, mostly at North High in Grosse Pointe, and has served as chairman of the school's social studies department for several years.

THE SCHOOLCRAFT class will meet Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. for 12

weeks. Course fee is \$52 plus a \$3 registration fee. Senior adults pay \$4 for the course, plus the \$3 registration fee. Students who successfully complete the course receive 2.5 continuing education credits.

"Why would people pay money to take a course they're not getting credit for? There's a real desire to be better informed on key issues. It's an election year," Behler said.

Noreen Thomas, assistant dean of Schoolcraft's continuing education services, backed Behler's assertion that more adults are clamoring for education for its own sake.

"Adults are taking classes for enrichment — not because they have to but because they want to," Thomas said. "It's a real delight to teach people who are in class because they want to be there; they're not obligated."

BEHLER'S CLASS will stretch be-

yond a basic lecture routine. An evening will be spent viewing one of the best private collections of campaign buttons and paraphernalia in the country, he said. The collection includes materials more than 100 years old.

"There will be a variety of audio/visual materials and I'll provide copies of various materials. There won't be a textbook," Behler said.

Behler plans to line up a Lincoln scholar to speak one evening.

ALTHOUGH HE plans to keep his opinions on the current race for the White House a secret, Behler calls Franklin Delano Roosevelt "the most effective president of the 20th century."

In the Dukakis/Bush race, he plans to separate rhetoric from substance.

"We'll do a comparison of political backgrounds — what has each ac-

complished — as well as changing factors in the electorate."

Smear tactics then and now is another topic up for discussion — from Nixon's dirty tricks campaign to the Dukakis depression rumor.

"Some political scientists feel there are an awful lot of impulse voters," Behler said.

BEHLER IS hoping for a class of active participants, not passive listeners. Students will go to the polls in November fully informed, he hopes.

"The views of class participants are welcome. It's only hoped they hold their views loosely enough to listen to other points of view," he said.

Politics in the 20th century has been influenced the most by "the media explosion and a preponderance of opinion polls," he said.

"The famous picture of (Harry) Truman holding a copy of the Chicago Tribune with the headline 'Dewey wins' was actually based on a Gallup poll," he said.

In addition to Harding, Behler puts Ulysses S. Grant in the presidential failures category. Besides Lincoln and FDR, he gives the thumbs up to Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson and Teddy Roosevelt.

Registrations for the class will be accepted through Sept. 14. For more information, call Schoolcraft College at 591-6408.

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