

Just like '80: Voters split ed board ticket



By Tim Richard
Staff writer

Richard C. Van Dusen took one look at Tuesday's election results and quoted Yogi Berra: "It's like deja vu all over again."

"It's almost a repeat of 1980," said Van Dusen, 63, an attorney from Birmingham. Voters that year elected a Republican and a Democrat to each of the state education boards. "It's fascinating."

Last Tuesday, voters re-elected Republican Van Dusen and Democrat Murray Jackson to the Wayne State University Board of Governors, splitting their tickets as in 1980.

They re-elected Republican Deane Baker and Democrat Nellie Varner to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. And they tapped Republican Tom Reed and Democrat Rob-

ert Weiss for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees.

IN ONLY ONE education race did voters stick with a single party. They returned Barbara Dumouchelle, a 14-year member from Grosse Ile, to the state Board of Education and added Marilyn F. Lundy of Grosse Pointe. Both are Republicans.

Lundy won by a scant 483 votes out of nearly 3 million cast. Van Dusen said, noting that it will earn her the nickname of "Landslide Lundy."

Why such ticket splitting? "Lou Harris, the pollster, spoke to the Economic Club Monday and indicated the American people have got used to a Congress of one party and executive of another. It's a matter of having one group of rascals looking over the shoulders of another group of rascals."

Certainly that happened at the national level, where voters picked Republican George Bush for president and gave him a Congress with two additional Democratic senators and

several more Democrats in the House. In Michigan it happened in 1986, when voters picked Democrat James Blanchard for governor and a Republican state Senate.

DID ENDORSEMENTS play any role in the state education posts?

"I rather doubt it," Van Dusen replied. "The Republican caucus in the Michigan Education Association thought I was OK, but I don't know what impact it had."

"The unions at WSU endorsed Murray Jackson and (Democrat) Vicki Krenn, but the union represents a small minority of the faculty," (Krenn of Rochester Hills is a UAW organizer whose regular job is in purchasing at Oakland University.)

"Name recognition may have had a bit to do with it," he said, noting U-M Regent Deane Baker has run three times, has been in a U.S. Senate race, and has someone with almost the same name active in Democratic politics.

"I've been around in more or less visible positions long enough, unlike

(his WSU running mate) Hattie Massey," said Van Dusen, a former state representative, Constitutional Convention delegate, assistant secretary of Housing and Urban Development and board chairman of the Greater Detroit Chamber of Commerce.

"Barb Dumouchelle was better known than Marilyn Lundy," he added.

"FROM THE standpoint of the WSU board, I regard it as an indication voters were aware of the affairs of the university."

"They liked the way the incumbent board handled it. It had to suggest some satisfaction. I regard that as quite positive."

"The board has worked well together and quite cohesively. There is almost a total absence of partisanship, although there are times when Murray Jackson and I disagree. The board has the best interests of the university at heart."

Van Dusen was the only Observer & Eccentric area education candidate to win Tuesday.

Young's final margin is 4,300

Joan E. Young won the full-term probate judgeship in a cliff-hanger last Tuesday, according to the final tally by the Oakland County clerk's office.

Young, the circuit court administrator from Bloomfield Township, gathered 136,451 votes to 132,102 for Troy attorney Thomas M. Brennan. The 4,300-vote margin was the tightest in any of the countywide elections.

Results of the state Court of Appeals race weren't available from Lansing until Thursday. Although Circuit Judge Richard D. Kuhn topped the ticket in Oakland County, he ran last in the 15-county district.

Winners in the contested appeals court race were Mark J. Cavanaugh of Rochester Hills, 369,481, and Marilyn Kelly, Bloomfield Hills attorney and former State Board of Educa-

tion member, 347,648. Third was Macomb Circuit Judge Kathleen Jansen, 328,777, and fourth was Kuhn with 285,638.

Michigan voters re-elected incumbent Justices Charles Levin with 1.6 million and James Brickley with 1.5 million.

A surprising third-place finisher was Jerry J. Kaufman, a 34-year-old Huntington Woods attorney specializing in tax and consumer cases. Kaufman, a Tisch Party nominee, had 438,000 votes compared to 498,000 for Wayne Circuit Judge Marvin Stemple, the Democratic Party nominee; and 385,000 for Richard C. Johnston, the Republican nominee.

Oakland voters gave Brickley 215,502; Levin, 203,421; Stemple, 63,123; Kaufman, 61,986; Johnston, 55,164; and Donald F. Warmbler, the Libertarian, 26,371.

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