Farmington voting precincts Pct. 6 Pct. 5 Pct. Pct. 2 #1 Farmington City Hall 23600 Liberty 92 Ten Mile Community School 32789 W. Ten Mile #3 Farmington High 32000 Shlawassee #4 Flanders Elementary 32600 Flanders Pct. #5 Longacre Elementary 34850 Anindel #6 Fermington Training Center 33000 Thomas

Issues, candidates seen sparking bigger turnout

By Joanne Mailszowski staff writer

If mushrooming interest and activity over Tuesday's election is any indication. Farmington and Farmington Hills city clerks predict a better-than-usual voter turnout. "There's a lot more activity this year. I'm gearing up for even more activity at the polis. I could be wrong, though," Farmington Hills city cierk Kathy Doman sawn't a lot of interest at first. But it's grown in the last two weeks."

Both clerks attribute the interest and activity to the city council candidative to the city council candidative the council candidative the council candidative the council candidative the council candidative over the candidative over the council candidative over the council candida

Both clerks attribute the interest and activity to the city conneil candidates seeking election and reciection, and, to a lesser degree, the two statewide ballot proposals. "Our candidates have been exceptionally active. They've been out campaigning. And they've shown a great interest in the absentee ballots," Bushey said.

Dornan expects election night to be the crowning glory to the fer-

vent campaigning in the Hills. The city hall lobby, complete with cable television cameras, is ex-pected to be filled with candidates and their families and friends, she

"THERE'S BEENFRso much interest. Everyday, candidates are in at the (city clerk's) counter asking for mailing lists. And they've generated an interest in the people, who also are coming in," Dornan said.

The clerks are hoping the interest will translate into a healthy vo-feet turnout Tuesday. Bushey is tak-ing a guess at a 10-15 percent turnout Tuesday. Bushey is tak-nout, more than the 6-7 percent of ballots cast in the 1987 council election. Dornan predicts an 18-20 percent turnout, compared to the 14 percent turnout in the 1987 council race, which was considered toper.

Comparison to last year, with a voter turnout topping 70 percent in both cities, may be misleading be-

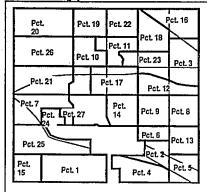
cause it was a presidential elec-tion, which historically generates larger turnouts than local elec-tions.

IN BOTH cities this year, the number of registered voters has decreased. Dornan's staff has spent months clearing out of voter registration files and canceled 3,000 voters, who no longer are in the city. Registered voters total 42,864. In Farmington, registered voters total 7,339, a drop from 2,421 in 1987. "There's been a lot of turnover and a number of deaths," Bushey said.

Candidates have had good reason for their interest in absentee voters. As of late last week, AV ballots increased to 6,500 from 2,200 in 1997. In Farmington, they increased to 509 from 298 two years ago.

But both clerks said those numbers probably are not final counts because they were still accepting last-minute AV ballots through 2 p.m. Saturda.

Hills voting precincts



#1 Power Middle School, 34740 Phonswood #2 Wheeler Fire Hall, 21420 Wheeler #3 Woodcrook School. #3 Woodcrook School, 28400 Harwick #4 Power Middle School, 34740 Rhonswood #5 William Grace School, 29040 Shiawassee #6 Larkshire School, 23800 Tuck Road #7 Dunckel Middle School, 2800 Twelve Mile #8 East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt #9 East Middle School. 25000 Middlebelt #10 Dunckel Middle School, 32800 Twelve Mile \$11 North Farmington High, 32900 Thirteen Mile \$12 East Middle School, 25000 Middlebelt #13 William Grace School, 29040 Shiawassee #14 Alameda School

32400 Alameda

#15 Gill School 21195 Gill Road #16 Fairview School 28500 Oak Crest #17 Alameda School, 32400 Alameda #18 Highmeadow School, 30175 Highmeadow #19 Forest School, 34545 Old Timber Road #20 Fire Dept. Hdgrs., 28711 Drake #21 Dunckel Middle School, 32800 Twelve Mile #22 North Farmington High, 32900 Thirteen Mile #23 Kenbrook School, 32130 Bonnet Hill Road #24 San Marino Golf Course, 26634 Halsted #25 Gill School, 21195 Gill Road #25 Hope Lutheran Church, 32900 Twelve Mile #27 San Marino Golf Course, 26634 Halsted

Builder defends rezoning

He has worked closely with the condominium association to assure the development protects the privacy, quality of life and property values of the residents. "They (condominium residents) are satisfied and support the rezoning as being in their best interest."

their best interest."
Hillside president Dick Isham agreed. He said Kaftan "was more than agreedble to lay out the property as best as it could be laid out there. I'm reasonably comfortable with Kaftan. Certainly we don't think office (use) is better there than IRO."

IRO."

• Farmington Hills' ordinances and enforcement policies are "capable of effectively controlling the use of hazardous and toxic substances in industry and research."

Isham again agreed. "We feel the city has enough control on IROs that we won't have any serious problems."

city has enough control on IROs that we won't have any serious problems."

A year ago, the condominium association opposed the rezoning request, but changes in the zoning ordinance were made that satisfied the early opponent serious of the land who additional control with a tenant screening process and use restrictions on the land. "No tenant wants to be near toxic material use. Commercial tenants have the same concerns as local residents."

Banning IRO wood of the control of the c

Deputy city clerk Sue Rose (left) and city clerk Kathy Dornan with Farm-ington Hills' new election tabulaling equipment. The de-vice at right reads punch cards, and the computer in front of Dornan col-lects results. The fin-nal result comes off a printer.



New equipment to help count Hills votes faster

Voting bailots are expected to zip through quicker this year, thanks to new election and tabulation equipment.

Farmington Hills, bought \$45,000 worth of equipment after the breakdown of equipment after the breakdown of equipment 12-15 years old in 1988. The counter until broke down with four precincts still uncounted on election algit last November. Under a reciprocal agreement, West Bloomleid, which had the same type of equipment as Farming-ton Hills, allowed Kathy Dornan, city clerk, to finish her work there. "This broke down about 230 a.m.," she said. "We were on the phone until 330 a.m., then we had to wait hours for West Bloomfield to

finish, so we couldn't even start counting over there until 8 am.

"We didn't have the totals from the precinits and we had to manually count the ones we did here and the ones we did there. I sent my deputy home at noon and I went home at 4 m. I started at 5 pm. the day before."

Two proofits and Downs

fore."

Two months ago, Dornan, current deputy clerk Sue Rose and staff member Dawn Morin, in charge of voter registrations, attended three-day classes in Chicago to learn how to set up and program the equipment.

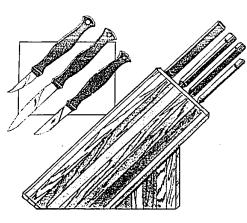
"We've run some test runs and we have a direct line to Chicago," Dor-nan said.

CARDS ONCE needed to be key-punched with the candidates' names,

office, etc. Much of the work now is done internally in the unit, Dornan said.

said.
Dornan became clerk 18 months ago. She was originally hired as deputy clerk to JoAn Reynolds five years ago. She previously was deputy clerk-treasurer for the city of Walled Lake.

"It's the newest equipment out," Dornan said of the Business Records Inc. machinery, "It's much more so-phisticated. There's no question on accuracy. Any equipment used in elections has to approved by the state board, and there's not a lot of choices out to be approved." On election night Tuesday, Nov. 7, 10 staff people will be on duty.



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Election results on cable

The company of the co

10 staff people will be on duty.

The polls will be open 7 a.m. to 8 pm. About 180 workers will work in the 27 Farmington Hills volting pre-cincts. The largest pre-cinct is No. 20 with 3,000 voters in the Haggerty-14 Millo-Haitted area. The smallest is No. 7 with 800 voters in the Industrial Park area.

"We get all kinds of calls from people asking if they are registered." Dornan said. "The rule of thumb is that if people voted in the last four years, they are in our active files and are eligible to vote and

tive lites and are eligible to vote and are registered.
"If they are registered with us, but haven't voted in the last four years, but voted in the last four pears, but voted in the six years prior to that, they are in an inactive file and they are still eligible to vote.

Any voting activity within 10 years qualifies registered voters to vote.