

# 2 women elected to serve on council

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of votes, 351," Richardson said. Some of her campaign supporters were "a little concerned" when she chose not to display political lawn signs. She opted for green ribbons tied around trees and car antennas instead.

A beautification stalwart, Richardson dislikes the visual pollution created by lawn signs. "I couldn't in good conscience do it," she said.

Richardson was the first woman to serve on the city council. She was named in 1986 to take the place of Alton Bennett, who resigned and moved from the area.

This was the first time in Farmington's 63-year history that even one woman has been elected to the council.

MCSHANE WAS not at city hall Tuesday night. She chose instead to share the excitement privately with family and friends.

"I'm elated," she said. "I had a feeling that I had a good chance. People were pleased with my reaction to the observer questions. I plan to be an outreach candidate. I care so much about seniors. Right away, I'm going to call Families in Action."

McShane hopes to delve right into women's and family issues. Her own family never wavered in their support, she said. "They knew I would win."

McShane ran for council once before, 12 years ago, but lost by 90 votes. A comment a competitor made then, "Oh, she was just a



JoAnne McShane  
new councilwoman

housewife," still rings in her memory.

An insurance account representative, she said she's "more seasoned now." Vice-chair since October, she has been on the zoning board of appeals for 10 years.

"I'M ELATED," Tupper said. "I can't do much better than that. There's no way to determine what the secret is (to winning)."

Tupper has served on the city council for 16 years although not consecutively, has been mayor four years in two separate terms, served on the planning commission for five years and is now council liaison to the zoning board of appeals.

## Farmington City Council Election

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 1989 — local precinct breakdown for 3 regular terms

precincts	Campbell	Fellenberg	Kenney	McShane	Richardson	Tupper	Walker
1. City Hall	170	51	82	295	249	275	282
2. Ten Mile School	136	75	54	147	188	167	116
3. Farmington High	110	65	45	178	198	214	116
4. Flanders	260	51	47	184	162	171	82
5. Longacre	179	101	63	233	322	339	166
6. Training Center	148	77	50	212	250	209	186
Absentee votes	223	109	73	205	351	351	214
Totals	1,226	529	414	1,454	1,740	1,726	1,182

Registered voters, 7,339; ballots cast, 3,220; turnout percentage, 43.9; absentee ballots, 568.

Vote counts are unofficial.

Campbell could not be reached for comment.

Challenger Robert Walker, who finished fifth despite support from many Old Village residents, said he was pleased with his first-time candidacy, but disappointed with the outcome.

"I think I did pretty well for the first time. I'll probably be back in two years. I was surprised to see Arnold Campbell drop out," said Walker, who had been thinking about running for a few years.

The newly elected council members will be sworn in by city clerk Jo Bushey at the next council meeting on Monday, Nov. 20 in Farmington City Hall.

Tuesday's election drew 43.9 percent (3,220) of Farmington's 7,339 registered voters. According to Janice Schmidt, administrative secretary, city clerk Josephine Bushey predicted a 20 percent turnout.

The nearly 44 percent turnout was among the highest ever in the city in a nonpresidential election year.

## Incumbents look back

On the eve of Tuesday's election, outgoing Farmington Mayor Richard Tupper Monday was anticipating results of his re-election bid and recalling his two-year term of presiding over city business.

He thanked the city staff and city manager Robert Deadman "for getting me out of some tough spots."

"I'll remember these years being mayor for the rest of my life."

Fellow councilwoman Shirley Richardson — the first woman to serve on the council who was also seeking to retain her seat Tuesday —

thanked fellow councilmembers for appointing her in 1986 to fill a vacancy.

"I have appreciated all of your support," she said. "I have enjoyed being one of the guys, so to speak."

# Library officials mull return to voters

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Vote counts are unofficial. Meanwhile, Farmington Community Library officials are looking down the road at how they will handle the problems of increasing growth and maintaining a quality two-branch library.

Library director Beverly Papai said she believes library trustees will consider going to voters a second time, but is unsure when.

"Overall, we came so close," Papai said Wednesday, disappointed after weeks of daily campaigning for both issues. "The library board of trustees were responsible in making

all the rational decisions to handle our long-term problems."

"We just can't continue to maintain that high quality of library service without some help."

THE LIBRARY issues culminated more than a year of planning and four months of work for library officials, who said a new 80,000-square-foot library was needed because of cramped shelf space and parking space due to increased use of the system. The 17-year-old Hills branch, on five acres at 12 Mile and Kendallwood, is 38,000 square feet.

The expansion proposal is part of a five-year master library plan.

The bond issue would have raised \$14.5 million to build and furnish a new library on 18 acres on the north side of 12 Mile, just east of Halsted, and do renovations to the current branch in downtown Farmington.

The operating tax proposition asked for a cap of 15 mills for 20 years to independently operate the library system. The system is now funded through the general funds of the two cities.

If this request had passed, the city councils had agreed to roll back their operating budgets in the amount they've earmarked for the library, 75 mill — \$1.5 million in Farmington Hills and \$169,500 in Farmington.

Papai attributed the ballot losses to several factors, including the large turnout and statewide tax increase proposals, which were also on the ballot.

She said these proposals took some of the focus off the local library issues. "I think Proposals A and B drew a lot of people who wanted no

increase in taxes," she said.

PAPAI ALSO said there was concern on the east side of Farmington Hills because the new library was proposed to be built on the west side. She said library personnel would review precinct-by-precinct votes to determine issues, concerns and new strategies.

The library board is meeting today and is expected to discuss the ballot losses and the future of the library system. Library president

Charlotte Yaverski could not be reached for comment Wednesday morning.

But Papai said the board will likely consider another ballot issue in the future. "I anticipate they will," she said. "The timing of that still remains to be seen. The longer we wait to resolve the problem, the higher the cost will be."

"If we stop, we will ultimately have substandard library services."

THE TWO issues were defeated in

both Farmington and Farmington Hills Tuesday.

In Farmington, 1,482 votes were cast in favor of the bond issue, with 1,550 cast against. The operating millage lost by a wider margin, with 1,183 voting for and 1,634 against.

In Farmington Hills, 8,057 votes were cast in favor of the bond issue, with 8,204 against. The millage issue was soundly defeated with only 5,882 votes cast for and 10,193 against the issue.

● \$14.5-MILLION BOND ISSUE	
Farmington Hills	no, 8,201
Farmington	no, 1,550
● 1.5-MILL OPERATING LEVY	
Farmington Hills	no, 10,193
Farmington	no, 1,634



**'We just can't continue to maintain that high quality of library service without some help.'**

— Beverly Papai  
library director

## State ballot losses spur a new effort

More state ballot coverage, 5A

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

The head of the Farmington school board believes educators must now take a pro-active stance for school finance reform in the wake of the defeat of two state proposals Tuesday.

Proposals A and B, sales tax increase measures earmarked for school financing, went down to defeat Tuesday.

Helen Prutow, Farmington school board president, also active in school issues at both county and state levels, said Wednesday it is now up to the educational community to move the issue forward so it is not ignored. "I refuse to be defeated because these proposals were defeated," she said. "They were small bandages on a very big wound. There needs to be a multitude of methods, because there is a multiple number of districts with needs."

"I think it's up to us and I hope the Legislature listens to us."

IF THE proposals had passed Tuesday, they would have had little direct impact on the Farmington Public Schools financially, but as a trustee of both the Oakland Intermediate Schools and the Michigan Association of School Boards, Prutow is looking at the big picture. There are a group of Michigan dis-

● STATE PROPOSAL A	
Farmington Hills	no, 12,530
Farmington	no, 2,429
Totals	no, 14,959
● STATE PROPOSAL B	
Farmington Hills	no, 14,694
Farmington	no, 2,745
Totals	no, 17,439

tricts receiving state aid, called in formula, which were expected to fill suit this week if Tuesday's proposals failed, she said.

The biggest focus now, she said, is to "keep the spotlight" on school finance reform issues. "There's too many districts that are hurting," she said.

Prutow expects the MASH State Legislative Committee, of which she is a member, to begin discussing the issues this week in an effort to move forward.

AS THEY did statewide, both sales tax increase proposals failed by a wide margin in both Farmington and Farmington Hills, according to unofficial vote tallies obtained from city clerks.

ton and Farmington Hills, according to unofficial vote tallies obtained from city clerks.

Proposal A, which would have increased the sales tax by half a cent to raise \$400,000 for education, was defeated 14,959 votes to 4,774 votes. Proposal B, which asked for a two-cent sales tax increase and promised some property tax relief, was also defeated 17,439 votes to 1,745 votes.

Farmington school officials, meanwhile, will continue to eye state policies on school funding in the light of Tuesday's defeat.

They are concerned that the state, which has always paid through Social Security benefits for the district's employees, will stop paying it beginning next year. That represents some \$6 million a year for the Farmington district alone.

Acting superintendent Michael Flanagan said last week he is relatively sure that is the direction the state is heading. He warned that it could mean some belt-tightening for the district.

PRUTOW SAID such a move would be "devastating to the program down the road." She said it could eventually cause program cuts, including the district's recently implemented staff development thrust.

The \$6 million represents more than half of what the district has set aside in a reserve fund for one year. If the state took such action, this amount would be eaten up within two years.

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