

# Candidates spend, 'grip and grin' down to wire

## Thomas Brennan

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Brennan spent \$919 in the primary, according to campaign finance reports, most from his own pocket.

**DETRACTORS DOWNPLAY** Brennan's efforts — particularly his spending \$240,000 less than the only candidate to get more votes. They insist Brennan simply capitalized on a popular Irish surname.

Brennan wouldn't be the first candidate to benefit from voter confusion over a popular surname, say his detractors. But confusion shouldn't be confused with voter support. Don't sell Brennan short, said Carmody. He established some voter identification of his own when he ran for probate judge. "And he went out and worked in that primary... diligently. 'He's got a folksy style that is very effective,' he said. 'He comes across as accessible and honest — two qualities people want in a judge. 'He won't treat people like num-

bers. He'll treat the people before him as real people with real problems. He'll be a damned good judge."

With less than two weeks remaining in the campaign, Brennan said he is pleased with his campaign effort, noting that he will likely spend about \$22,000 for the entire campaign.

He'd like to have more, Brennan said, because mailings and media advertising is expensive. "But I'm going to do the best I can with what I have... that's all anybody can do." Brennan said he is pleased with endorsements he has received from the Macomb Trial Lawyers Association, labor organizations and the Democratic Party.

**"BUT I CAN'T** figure out what the Oakland County Bar meant when it rated me 'qualified, but not recommended,' Brennan said. "Recommended for what?"

"I just took it to mean that I'm not part of that club," he said. "Maybe that's why Rudy Nichols wouldn't talk with them," a reference to the fact that Nichols did not participate in that bar's evaluation process.

Carmody considers Brennan to be a very "thorough and determined" lawyer.

"But he's also a dedicated family man," he said. "About a year ago he started skipping lunch to do karate with his son (Michael), a third grader at Wess Elementary School in Troy." Brennan would undoubtedly bring those same qualities — honesty, dedication and thoroughness — to the bench if elected to the circuit court, Carmody said.

## Rudy Nichols

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final outcome.

With less than two weeks remaining before the Nov. 6 election, Nichols said he is optimistic because "the campaign's coming together. The pieces are starting to fit."

**HE EXPECTS** to spend about \$100,000 during a campaign in which, he says, he has done all the right things.

Nichols said he has made sure absentee voters know of his campaign, put his yard signs in place and arranged for media spots as election day draws near.

What is probably the last of the meet-the-candidate nights was in

Troy Tuesday, sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

The remaining days will be a whirlwind of campaign stops and public appearances, Nichols said. "But I'm happy with my campaign and I'm confident I'll win. Everything's building to a peak," he said.

Getting endorsements from 13 of the 14 current Oakland circuit judges helped, Nichols said. "Because that's high praise from people who know what it's all about."

Steven N. Andrews, chief judge of the Oakland Circuit Court, explained his endorsement this way. "I can only speak for myself. But Nichols is an honorable and knowledgeable man. He's made some of the laws, he ought to know what's in them."

**NICHOLS HAS** other endorsements, of course, from newspapers as well as organizations like the Fraternal Order of Police, the Michigan Association of Police and the Police Officer's Association of Michigan.

Sgt. Michael McCabe, of the Rochester Hills contingent of the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, said he personally supports Nichols because he has consistently favored tough laws. "He's fair," said McCabe. "But he also wants a system that is tough on criminals."

## ELECTION



## CIRCUIT COURT

## James Sheehy

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couraged by the response I've been getting."

He spent about \$100,000 on the primary and expects to spend another \$70,000, according to a spokeswoman from his office.

**PERHAPS THE** most unusual encounter, Sheehy said, happened last week when he was campaigning in a Hazel Park bar.

A woman asked for his autograph, Sheehy said. "I asked her why, because judges aren't normally asked for their autograph."

The woman said it was for her daughter, Sheehy said. "She had appeared before me on a drunk driving case and said I'd treated her fairly. That made me feel pretty good."

Sheehy intends to work hard in the

closing days of the campaign. But he is philosophical. "No matter what happens Nov. 6, I'll still be a judge."

## Deborah Tyner

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qualifications? Why do you want to be a judge?"

While the campaign so far has been busy, Tyner said the final two weeks will be even more hectic, "with everybody nervous about the final push" to election day.

But she remains confident. "I feel I've done well in the interviews and we have a good organization. We're taking nothing for granted, the key to winning is meeting as many voters as possible."

**IN THE PRIMARY** campaign, Tyner spent \$241,953, more than twice as much as the second biggest spender, James Sheehy, who reported \$105,068 in expenditures.

Campaign manager Richard Her-

man, also a lawyer and Tyner's husband, said he isn't sure how much they will spend in the general election. "Probably as much as we can raise and spend wisely," he said.

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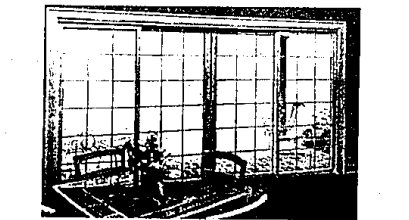
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