

Recycling facility is No. 1 priority

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"Some areas had paper ballots," said Diane Pederson of Rochester Hills. "That increases the possibility of mistakes or errors. With the margin that slim, I think a recount is absolutely necessary."

Another opponent of the ballot proposal, William McMaster of Birmingham, called for an investigation into the election, insisting voters had been "bamboozled."

The election process was contaminated, McMaster said. "There was a conflict of interest by county Republicans who bamboozled voters into thinking this waste plan won't cost them anything."

MCMMASTER, A PUBLIC relations executive and an outspoken tax foe, disagrees with engineers and financial consultants who say tax money will not be needed for the waste program. They insist the bonds sold to

finance the waste plan will be paid off with user fees and revenue from the sale of electricity and recycled materials, not taxes.

McMaster and others opposed to the solid waste plan mounted a concerted campaign against it. But their efforts were more than offset, they said, by the efforts of the Westinghouse Electric Corp., which promoted a pro-incinerator vote through the Committee for Responsible Solid Waste Management.

"That's what did it," said Peterson, HOPE chairman. "Their last minute blitz swayed a lot of voters." She was referring to the radio, television and newspaper commercials featuring County Executive Daniel T. Murphy, former prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson and tax foe Richard Headlee.

It's amazing, said Pederson, but many voters were unaware that residents would vote on the incinerator—even though the controversy had been reported in newspapers and the other media.

"Even in Rochester Hills (where she campaigned Monday and Tuesday) many voters were unaware of the election," she said. "Or they didn't care."

"THOSE COMMERCIALS (with Murphy, Patterson and Headlee) really did the trick on behalf of the incinerator," she said.

Rochester Hills reported the largest voter turnout in Oakland County, with 15,008 voters, or more than 35 percent of its registered voters, casting ballots.

Although the waste plan was rejected in Rochester Hills, 4,059 to 10,949, Pederson was a little disappointed. "We should have worked the Brooklands harder," she said, referring to the southeast area of the city.

Steve Mitchell, a public relations consultant who is also treasurer of the Committee for Responsible Solid Waste Management, also credited the 11th-hour media blitz for swinging the election in favor of the solid waste plan.

"Those commercials with Murphy, Patterson and Headlee were very effective," said Mitchell, a West Bloomfield resident. "They correctly convinced voters that the plan was safe and that it wouldn't cost tax dollars."

About a month before the election, their polling showed 45 percent of the likely voters in Oakland County supporting the solid waste plan, Mitchell said. "A week before (the

election) it was 47 percent.

"Those commercials put it (the waste proposal) over the top," he said.

Mitchell said the total cost of the committee's media blitz "will probably be in excess of \$200,000."

THE POST-ELECTION campaign finance report from the committee is due Dec. 5. The pre-election report, filed Oct. 25, disclosed that Westinghouse, which has a contract to build the \$190 million incinerator, put up all the nearly \$48,000 spent in that reporting period.

Roger McDaniel, an Auburn Hills resident, predicted that Patterson's wholehearted endorsement of the solid waste plan "is going to hurt him politically."

Midge Williams, a Rochester Hills resident and treasurer of HOPE, agreed. "A lot of Republicans who voted against the incinerator are going to remember Brooks Patterson's role."

Williams, McDaniel and Pederson were among those watched the election results being tabulated at the county clerk's office. The last returns, from Rochester Hills, came in about 3 a.m. Wednesday.

ELECTION RESULTS

Oakland County Solid Waste Plan

Here's how residents in the Observer & Eccentric readership area cast their vote:

Auburn Hills	Farmington	Oakland Twp.	Southfield
Yes 737	Yes 849	Yes 551	Yes 4,791
No 1,241	No 929	No 1,280	No 4,843
Birmingham	Farmington Hills	Orchard Lake	Southfield Twp.
Yes 1,133	Yes 5,355	Yes 404	Yes 1,032
No 1,462	No 5,337	No 248	No 925
Bloomfield Hills	Keego Harbor	Rochester	Troy
Yes 231	Yes 123	Yes 530	Yes 4,210
No 252	No 123	No 1,015	No 3,568
Bloomfield Twp.	Lathrup Village	Rochester Hills	West Bloomfield
Yes 2,709	Yes 317	Yes 4,059	Yes 3,790
No 2,549	No 254	No 4,059	No 3,436
County-wide vote totals:			
Yes 70,908			
No 70,655			

'No IGA's, no incinerator'

By Pat Murphy
staff writer

They may have lost a battle in the war over the proposed solid waste program and its controversial incinerator.

But the war may not be over. Having been unsuccessful in their efforts to defeat the county's proposed waste plan, the head of the Oakland Environmental Protection Council said opponents may yet try to thwart the program, at least the incinerator, by pressuring individual communities into refusing to participate.

Michael Schwartz, a West Bloomfield lawyer, said opponents might pressure individual communities into refusing to sign the inter-governmental agreements (IGAs), committing their municipal trash to the

county program.

No IGAs, no incinerator, said Schwartz.

Meanwhile, county officials Wednesday said they will immediately begin negotiating with individual communities to hasten signing of the IGAs.

Earlier this year, most communities refused to approve the IGAs.

Officials hoped overwhelming approval of the solid waste plan would lead to more IGA signings. At least one city manager, however, didn't see it happening that way.

"The reason we didn't sign the IGA was economics," said Farmington Hills City Manager William Costick. "We had other (more economical) options. That still is the case."

"That may change in the future, but for now, I wish them (county officials) well at getting the IGAs."

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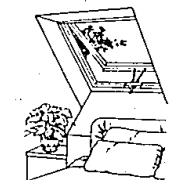
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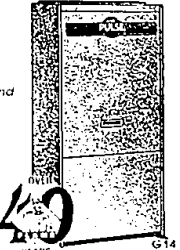
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