He's the man, but is he the right

With heavy name recognition and rapidly filling war chest, L. Brooks

With heavy name recognition and a rapidly filling war chest. L. Brooks Pâtterson enters his campaign for Oghland County Executive as a heavy-to-prohibitive favorite. White there's little doubt about his electability, some doubt the brash, controversial ex-prosecutor can become an effective county leader. "Affable and vacuous," is the way 'Oakland Democratic party leader. "Affable and vacuous," is the way 'Oakland Democratic party leader. "Affable and vacuous," is the way 'Oakland Democratic party leader. "Affable and vacuous," is the way 'Oakland Democratic party leader. "Affable and vacuous," is the way 'Oakland Democratic party leader. "Affable and vacuous, "Is on the collection of the controvation of the controvation of the county a der whether that is possible. Sawy-to-probibitive favorite. While there's little doubt about his betability, some doubt the breath the proposed of the control of the con

Murphy, Oakland's current, low key executive. "I know where he stands, he knows where I stand. We won't change, but we will have to work to-gether."

With issues from mass transit to

business development already on the agenda, some Oakland leaders won-der whether that is possible.

L. Brooks Patterson's campaign theme is pro-Oakland County. But Patterson seeks the executive's lob at a time when there is substantial disagreement over what being pro-

"That was clear at his campaign kick off (Monday in Pontiac), He could have used it as a rah-rah kind of thing, but instead he talked is-

Oakland County

Oskinad GOP chief James Alexan-der: said Patterson has already shown himself a serious, substantial candidate. His involvement in pro-moting the Patterson-Anderson lax cut initiative, as well as in other is-sues, Alexander believes, show he's a deeper candidate than critics would have voters believe.

candidate - law enforcement. But

candidate — law enforcement. But mow they see him as someone who has fought to lower tares and someone who taked education with the governor." Alexander said.

SMART chairman Matt Wirgau, a Patterson supporter, said he believes the candidate will keep an open mind on merger talks between the suburban bus service and Detroit mind on merger talks between the suburban bus service and Detroit bepartment of Transportation.

"It's a matter of showing him the benefits," said Wirgau, who has miet with Patterson on transportation issues.

theme: If something helps — or at least doesn't burt Oakland County — he's in favor. If it hurts the county, he'll fight like hell against it.
"He's 180 degrees different from Dan (Murphy)." Alexander sald. "But he's soing to keep the best of what Dan has done. He's going to be upfront and outspoken and strongly pro-Oakland County!.

But Patterson seeks the executive's job at a' time when there is substantial disagreement over what being pro-Oakland County means.
The regional development initiative issued last year by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments has become a litimus test for area leaders.

leaders.

With its strong anti-racism stand
and support for managed development, the report drew major support
from the county's urban communi-

ties.

But Oakland's still-developing sub-urban and rural communities deemed the report too harsh. In re-sponse, Republicans on the county

commission drafted their own report stating crime, not racism, was the main regional problem while softening the call for regional development. SEMOG spokesman Donn Shelton said his organization has had the dealing to date with Patterson. "As county executive, we assume hit look at the issues," Selton said. Lack of Patterson's support won't kill the SEMOG initiative, Shelton added. "We have support from a number of communities, naturally support is greatest in urban areas." Regional issues aside, there's little doubt Patterson's tough, aggressive style hits home with many Oakland voters.

"BROOKS HAS the ability to touch voters personally," Alexander said. "Plus, you always know where he stands,"
That translates to votes — and dollars. A blitz of 10 fund-raising

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