Incumbents file for county offices

See related story, 9A.

POLITICS

Incumbents have declared for a variety of Oakland County offices as Tuesday's filing deadline approaches.

Sheriff John Nichols, clerk Lynn Allen, treasurer C. Hugh Dohany and drain commissioner George Kuhn have filed for new terms. All are Republicans.

Fellow Republican L. Brooks Patterson is expected to file today for county executive. County Executive Daniel Murphy is stepping down due to illness.

Nichols and Dohany are Novi Township residents. Allen is a Waterford resident. Kuhn resides in West Bloomfield. Patterson is a Clarkston resident and former county prosecutor.

Current prosecutor Richard Thompson has yet to file but said he would soon.

"We've been pretty busy around here but, yes, I am a candidate for re-election," Thompson said.

Democrat Steven Kaplan of Southfield has filed for the prosecutor's post. An assistant prosecutor in Macomb County, Kaplan is also president of the Southfield Board of Education.

Thomas Werth, a Rochester city councilman and former mayor, said he would seek the Democratic nomination for county executive, though he hasn't yet filed.

Democratic candidates for other county posts are expected to be named at this weekend's county party convention.

County officers serve four year terms.

Salaries for county offices are: executive, $106,245; sheriff, $80,341; drain commissioner, $80,341; treasurer, $73,969; clerk, $71,968. The clerk and treasurer each receive per diem fees for meeting attendance, though their annual salary is not to exceed that of the sheriff.

In non-partisan races, chief county probate Judge Eugene Moore and fellow Judge Sandra Silver have also filed for new terms. Moore is an Oxford resident. Silver lives in Bloomfield Hills.

The other Blanchard says no thanks

No, Paula Blanchard is not running for office.

Responding to widespread rumors that she had been drafted by Oakland County Democrats to run for either county executive against L. Brooks Patterson or U.S. Congress against either David Honigmann, Joseph Knollenberg or Alice Gilbett from the newly-created 11th District, she said:

"I must say that I'm very flattered to have my name mentioned *in regards to several important* offices. But I have no plans to run for any public office."

Blanchard, a vice president at Casey Communications in Southfield, said she has been approached by local Democrats "every time an open seat comes up."

"Usually I dismiss it out of hand. This time I did meet with them, and listened to the pros and cons."

But the new lifestyle she has worked so hard to build won out. "Politics is part of my past and not part of my future."

Included in this lifestyle is a new West *Bloomfield condominium.* She recently sold her Birmingham house to opt for less responsibility in home upkeep.

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