

# Gilbert's campaign heads down grocery aisle

By GREG KOWALSKI

STAFF WRITER



Alice Gilbert  
County Circuit Court judge to bagging groceries in a store.

This is the third in a series focusing on candidates for U.S. House in the 11th District.

Alice Gilbert has gone from being a Oakland County Circuit Court judge to bagging groceries in a store.

No, this isn't a story of how the mighty have fallen. It's a tale of what a candidate for public office has to do to reach the voters.

It means doing some door-to-door, attending seemingly endless fund-raisers and participating in candidate forums that she admits are more show than substance.

Gilbert, 50, is running against Dave Honigman and Joe Knollenberg on the Republican ticket for the newly created 11th U.S. Congressional House District.

"I thought it was pretty funny," said Beret Busselle, a cashier/desk at the Shopping Center Market at Orchard Lake Road and Maple in

West Bloomfield Township. "But it looked like a good thing to do."

He added, "She seemed she could hold her own" with the people who passed down the lanes.

Store manager Tom Bryn said the campaign stop went well. "She talked to whoever she could and they were all receptive."

Gilbert spent about an hour at the store, and because of union regulations, was paid the \$7 an hour standard wage. She also picked up a few campaign contributions said a Gilbert committee staff worker.

Prior to going to the store, Gilbert — dressed in a red, white and blue outfit — made a visit to the South-

field Civic Center where she met with city workers and toured the 46th District Court accompanied by magistrate Eugene Friedman.

The courts are familiar territory for Gilbert. She has 31 years of judicial experience and had been on the circuit court since 1979. She resigned recently to run for Congress.

"She's had a lot of experience," said Friedman, a supporter. "I agree with all she stands for."

Gilbert noted, "I love everything about Southfield except its crime rate."

Gilbert said she saw more cases generated in circuit court from Southfield than any other commu-

nity in Oakland County. However, Southfield has a population of about 75,000 people.

Gilbert, a liberal on the abortion issue, is a strong law-and-order candidate.

"I'm a people person," she said. "I love contacting people." And she showed a humorous side.

"This is a test," she said as she approached one city employee unexpectedly. "Do you know what (U.S. Congressional) district you live in?"

The person didn't, but she was from Sterling Heights, outside the 11th district.

"That's OK," Gilbert said laugh-

ing. "Heights doesn't mean I don't like you."

"A lot of people (she meets) are not even in the district, but I don't do anything unless I do it all the way," she said.

She added she plans to visit all the nearby 27 city, township and village halls in the district during her campaign.

"People who work here are generally voters," she said. "You have to try and reach as many voters as possible."

Gilbert has three grown children: daughter, Gwen, and sons, Dean and Greg, who are somewhat active in her campaign.

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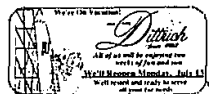
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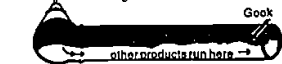
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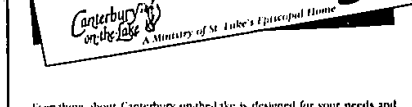
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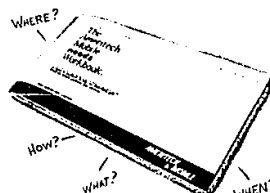
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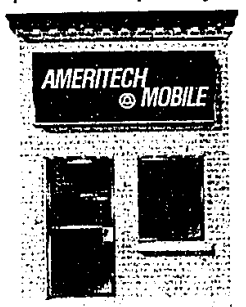
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