After the fray

D.C. lures Knollenberg

At age 59, Joe Knollenberg is planning a career change of a life-time. He hopes to go from owning a Troy Allstate insurance office to becoming a U.S. Congressman.

"When you face making a career change, it's sobering. They're (vot-ers) are asking me to be their Con-gressman." said Knollenberg of Bloomfield Township.

Knollenberg pulled a stunning upset victory in the 11th U.S. House race, beating perceived front-runner state Sen. Dave Honigman and former Oakland County Cigcuit judge Alice Gilbert.

But Knollenberg doesn't see it as an upset. And he offers some background to support his confi-

"We knew that there are for less people who participate in a prima-ry, and we knew we could win if we had the right grass roots organiza-tion," said Knollenberg as he re-covered from a grueling election night schedule.

Knollenberg orchestrated his campaign by allowing Republican opponents Honigman and Gilbert to bash each other in the media. He only entered the fray once, when he held a joint press conference with Gilbert to attack Honig-

Ironically, Gilbert had run a series of ads attacking Honigman, but she defended that by saying she was just presenting the facts.

Honigman and Gilbert are now history, as far as the Congressional race is concerned. Now Knollen-berg is taking aim at Democrat Walter O. Briggs in the November general election.

"We have to take the opposition seriously," said Knollenberg, "We

have to act as if Briggs is the Incumbent."

On Thursday, the remnants of the political race were evident in Knollenberg's office on Big Beaver near Rochester Road. A pile of Knollenberg balloons slowly shrank in a corner and the tall boards of election night totals were propped against a desk.

Knollenberg was dressed espe-cially casual for a working day, but after the nearly all-night election marathon, it would take everyone a few days to bounce back.

While Knollenberg is the favorite in what is traditionally a Republican area, he said he isn't taking anything for granted.

"We don't want to get overconfi-dent. This is a big responsibility."

He said he will continue to rely on what he said put him over the top in the primary — a league of nearly 1,000 volunteers.

Kitchen cabinet: After his victory in the Republican primary for the 11th U.S. Congressional House race, Joe Knollenberg meets with a campaign aide in at his Bloomfield Township house dining room to map out strategy for the November general election

Knollenberg has been involved in Oakland County Republican Party politics, including serving as campaign manager for retiring Congressman William Broomfield, endarsed him.

who endorsed him.

He said that because of his long association with the party, "I got calls from people to volunteer who worked with me 15 years ago." He also benefitted from a lot of support from anti-abortion groups, which made campaign calls for

cluding the new areas, such as Livonia, and the Democratic areas of Redford and Southfield.

or recutore and Southfield.

Taking a conservative stance,
Knollenberg isn't packing his bags
for Washington yet, but he said he
does have the support of All State
if he elects to leave his insurance

business.
It will still be in good hands,
Knollenberg said. Sons Marty and
Stephen work with their father and are ready to step in if he wins in November.

"It's very exciting and I'm very clated," said Marty, 28, "I would have wondered if we hadn't gotten the votes."

"I'm really happy," said Ste-phen, 25. Also still recovering from election night, he said, "I made 400 phone calls election day just trying to get the vote out.

Knollenberg said he has received a lot of support from his family, es pecially wife Sandie.

"She is still my best asset," he said.

Honigman: Middle stances costly

By JUDITH DONER BERNE

It was a beautiful, clear, sunny Thursday.

Thursday.

But not to Dave Honigman.

Honigman, recuperating at his
West Bloomfield home two days after the election, looked like he felt

spent. On Monday he will leave

Dressed in a Yale sweatshirt, Country Day sweatpants and base-ball cap, with his eyes still at half mast from lack of sleep, Honigman admitted he didn't quite know what

The election as Republican candidate from the newly-drawn 11th Congressional District, by most accounts, had been his to win. He had held public office for eight years nd he had unlimited money to spend on a campaign.

He conceded defeat to conserva-tive, pro-life Joe Knollenberg when TV news was saying a mere 4 per-cent of the votes were in. "When 1 barely won Walled Lake, I knew," he said.

Honigman attributed about half of Kpollenberg's victory to the pro-ilfe tote. "You see their candidates (winping) all over Oakland County. I admire Right to Life."

About 35 percent was a result of what he terms "attack ads." And the rest, he sald, was due to Bill Broomfield's endorsement.

newspaper endorsements. We got 14 of 15." "It shows the non-importance

"I can't honestly think what we would have done differently. We did everything more than everybody. We knocked on 40,000 doors. We had the largest number of volun-teers, it's difficult.

"It would have been a lot easier

"It would have been a lot easier for me one on one."

But, Honigman said, once Knolenberg declared, he knew it would be a three-person race. He knew the pro-choice Republicans would run a candidate.

"My abortion position being in the middle was very inexpedient and being subjected to half a mil-lion dollars of attack ads. It was hard to withstand, it hurt her, too."

He was referring, of course, to Al-ice Gilbert, who resigned from the circuit court to become the pro-choice candidate. Gilbert says her so-called "attack ads" pertained to

Sitting on his patio overlooking his forested back yard, Honigman

was eventually Joined by his wife, Joann, and campaigm manager Tim Pope. Pope booked even worse than Honigman, Joann had evidently recovered faster.

"Someone said today, it just became a natural disaster or an act of God," said Pope, who ran past successful campaigns for both Honigman and state Republican Sen. Michael Bouchard.

"You hope you can run a condi-

chaes isouchard.

"You hope you can run a condidate who has positions on one extreme or another. David said he
wouldn't change his positions no
matter what." He told us: "You've
got to feel proud of yourself even if
you loss."

you lose."

But Honigman admits that his middling position "finally caught up with me."

The big question: Does this mean he will limit his political horizons to the Michigan Senate, or leave politics in two years at the end of his elected term?

Honigman first said he doesn't know.

"It is an ordeal campaigning -"It is an ordeal campnigning — emotionally draining. You've got to sak yourself how many times can you do this — put your family and friends through it." And, in appar-ent reference to people in his cam-paign running out of control, he said: "Sometimes it's hard to hold

them back."
"I feel terrible for all the people who worked their hearts out

But he mentioned that to make him feel better, some of his staff re-minded him that Abraham Lincoln

"I love public office. Still, cam-

"I tove public office are two different things."

Asked again whether he will stay in politics, he said: "I think so, but

"Of course you will," Joann said,
"Life goes on."



Honigman's afterthoughts: "When we saw Right to Life do a mailing — we saw Joe zap up there."

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Gilbert takes look at future

By Judith Doner Berne Staff Writer

Alice Gilbert is weighing her op-

tions.

The former judge who left the bench after 31 years to run for the Republican nomination from the 11th U.S. Congressional District

sold: "I'm going to take my time and examine my options."

In a telephone interview Friday from her West Bloomfield home, she said she's not tired, despite the

she said she's not theed, despite the heetic compaign.
Gilbert, who finished third behind the winner, Joe Knollenberg, but not too far behind state Sen. Dave Honigman, said she didn't expect to take a vocation. "I don't have a vocation planned. The expecting a grandchild this month." She has reservations to attend the Republican National Convention, but ian't sure whether she will go.

vention, but iant sure whether sive will go.
"I'm not saying I'd do anything different." Gilbert seid, in examin-ing the campaign she ran.
She said she was "crippled" by not having access to primary voter listy, which she said were not avail-ably to her. And, as a latecumer in the campaign, she said it would



Glibert's reflections: "To tellyou the truth after 31 years of a public career I heard (myself called) 'mean spirted.'

on their own.

Gilbert said she was happy about the "broad base of support" she drew from communities where she was not as well known. "I'm flattered I got such overwhelming support".

Section of 13 Mile to close

Thirteen Mile Road between Farmington and Cheaterbrook will be closed to through traffic for the entire day beginning Monday, Aug. 10, through Sept.

Supervisor candidate L. Brooks Patterson originally came out for

Honigman, but when others de-clared he withdrew to let them run

1.

For the last couple of weeks the road has been closed between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. but has been open during the morning and afternoon rush hour to allow through traffic to go through the

construction area.

However, due to the need to get this project opened to through traffic as soon as possi-ble, a complete closure is ached-uled for the next three weeks.

A detour has been established to 12 Mile Road using Farming-ton Road and Orchard Lake Road for 13 Mile Road motor-