

Patterson vows to deliver on campaign promises

BY JUDITH DONER BERNE
STAFF WRITER

L. Brooks Patterson is off and running.
At 10 a.m. today, he is naming his two top aides at a press conference at the Oakland County Executive's Office.

"I feel good," he said the morning after his not unexpected victory over Democrat Elizabeth (Butty) Howe in which he received 57.6 percent of the vote to her 42.4 percent.

As only the second person to hold the post of Oakland County executive, he will "immediately start to put together a new administration, make a number of appointments and map out some programs."

When he takes over for Daniel Murphy who retires in January, Patterson said he will honor his campaign commitments to form a roundtable of Oakland County business people, (so write him to volunteer) and to revitalize the southern end of the county. "That was not just campaign talk."

His answer to Howe's campaign slogan that she was "not one of the boys" is to say, "I will have female participation in my administration — experienced, professional ladies."

"I bet they will be ladies," Howe said, laughing. More seriously, she said: "I really do wish Brooks well. I would encourage him to become more knowledgeable about county government."

She noted the difference in their spending — she spent about \$50,000 to his campaign war chest of \$400,000-plus. And she predicted that the numbers of voters who cast ballots for her will hurt Patterson's bid for statewide or national office.

Howe closed up shop at her Pe-

king House headquarters in Royal Oak fairly early Tuesday night to join the excited throngs at the Clinton bash in Greentown.

"I've been working for Bill Clinton for a couple of years," she said.

Howe plans to continue on her master's degree at Michigan State University and with her teaching at Walsh College in Troy.

As in the executive's race, there were no surprises for Oakland County-wide offices. All the Republican incumbents won.

Steven Kaplan, who opposed prosecutor Richard Thompson, ran the best of all the Democrats, including Howe. Kaplan captured 45.7 percent of the vote to Thompson's 54.3 percent.

"We wanted to win," Kaplan said. "At the outset we knew it was an uphill battle." In his mind, if Ross Perot hadn't entered the race, Clinton's Oakland County contails would have been longer, and he might have achieved the upset he was after.

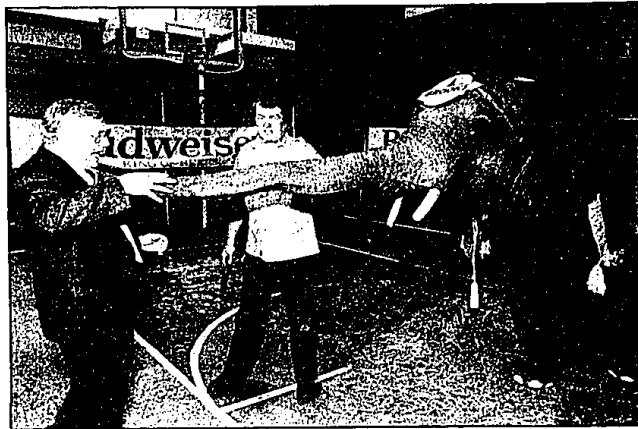
"I gave 130 speeches. I wouldn't do anything differently." He will remain as an assistant prosecutor in Macomb County and on the Southfield school board.

Other data:

■ Oakland County is still Bush country with 43.6 percent of the vote going to the president. Clinton had 38.6 percent and Perot, 17.1 percent.

■ The 73.55 percent of Oakland County's registered voters who went to the polls was not a record. However, the county's number of registered voters is a record — 761,611.

■ Sheriff John Nichols received the most votes of any countywide candidate, with a 64.9 percent vote total.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HORSCHMANN

Circus McPatterson: The new Oakland County executive (left) gets a nudge from "Twigg," a 10-year-old Indian elephant owned by the Four Bears Water Park in Utica. He invited Twigg to his election night party along with trainer, Walt King.

OAKLAND COUNTY RESULTS

* notes a winning candidate or issue. Only Oakland County results are shown.

OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE

* L. Brooks Patterson (R) 291,933
Elizabeth Howe (D) 215,172

OAKLAND COUNTY SHERIFF

* John Nichols Inc. (R) 312,574
Seymour Hundley, Jr. (D) 158,959

OAKLAND COUNTY PROSECUTOR

* Richard Thompson Inc. (R) 255,175
Steven Kaplan (D) 223,277

OAKLAND COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER

* George Kahn Inc. (R) 264,893
M. Kay Brady (D) 197,765

OAKLAND COUNTY CLERK

* Lynn Allen Inc. (R) 281,271
Martha Blom (D) 187,874

OAKLAND COUNTY TREASURER

* C. Hugh Doherty Inc. (R) 270,393
Thomas Werth (D) 190,596

COURT OF APPEALS (NONPARTISAN)

* Clifford Taylor Inc. 207,504
* Martin Docofort Inc. 171,884
George Kileen 148,806

Election-night parties differ wildly

BY RALPH R. ECHTINAW
STAFF WRITER

It would not be easy to find a contrast so distinct as that between the election night parties of the candidates for Oakland County executive.

At the party of winner L. Brooks Patterson, which is to say Republican, six teenage girls (including the candidate's daughter Mary) stuck Patterson bumper stickers on their backside and giggled. "I did it because I like Brooks," said Sarah Carmichael. "He's a hell of a guy and he's worth putting a bumper sticker on your booty for."

Staged at a Pontiac drinking establishment called The Ultimate Sports Bar and Grill, Patterson's soiree featured three searchlights outside, valet parking (for \$3), three free drinks for invited guests, a live band, hors d'oeuvres, balloons, gigantic TVs and an elephant named Twigg. The place was packed so tight that it's probably a good thing the fire marshals didn't attend.

Democratic underdog Betty Howe's party, on the other hand, seemed more like a quiet gathering of friends at the Peking House in Royal Oak, all hoping their candidate would win, but mostly not expecting it.

■ While Howe's guests were comprised of gentle supporters almost exclusively, and not many more than 100 at that, Patterson's 500-plus patrons seemed to vary from avid aficionados to 'Where's the party?'

So it seemed when Howe made a little speech early in the evening and reported that a single female precinct preferred her to Patterson. "I'm told that this is a bellwether precinct," she said. "It really is, all right!"

At Patterson's party, the second most popular individual was clearly the elephant, rented for the night from the Four Bears Water Park. Patterson visited the pachyderm shortly after his 8:15 p.m. arrival, trailed avidly by a gang of TV cameramen.

Knowing a good photo opportunity when he sees one, Patterson fed the animal a few morsels someone handed him, getting elephant saliva all over his right hand in the process. "Who wants

to shake my hand now?" he asked the crowd of admirers.

When Howe mentioned the "poor elephant locked in a cage" to her troupe, someone blurted "let the elephant out and put Brooks in the cage." Another fellow asked, "Which end of the elephant is Brooks?" Democratic drain commissioner candidate Kay Brady said, "I'd just like to see the elephant (do an unpleasant thing) on Brooks."

Luigi Cutraro, the general manager of The Ultimate Sports Bar, was asked how the Republicans were tipping. "I'll know at the end of the night," he said. "Let's face it. They're supposed to be rich." Asked the same question, a waitress said, "No comment."

While Howe's guests were

comprised of gentle supporters almost exclusively, and not many more than 100 at that, Patterson's 500-plus patrons seemed to vary from avid aficionados to "Where's the party?"

One fellow, David Zuehlke, said he's known Patterson for many years, and, "I want to be around when they announce his victory."

Another guest, college student Denise Beloskur — who admitted to being "well, Republican, sort of" — said she was there because a friend told her about a great party.

Teenager Mike Lake of Troy, who worked on President George Bush's campaign, said, "I think they should lower the drinking age."

At Howe's party the comments of Earl Kreps were typical of her guests. "I'm a Republican that supported (Howe) this time," he said. "I chose the best of the two. We need an administrator who's going to be sitting there doing the job and not politicking for another office."



Shop talk: At his election night outing, re-elected prosecutor Richard Thompson (left) talks with a supporter, attorney Charles Taunt of Bloomfield Township.

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