

Beardmore lone GOP survivor

State Board of Education president Dorothy Beardmore was the lone Republican to survive a Democratic sweep of education posts.

Beardmore, 65, of Rochester Hills, won a second one-year term on the state's education policymaking body.

Voters Tuesday picked two candidates apiece for each of four education boards.

Among other Observer & Eccentric area candidates:

■ Republican Harry Greenleaf, 56, of Livonia, finished fourth in his State Board of Education race. The Ford Motor engineering personnel manager remains on the Schoolcraft College board.

■ Democrat Laurence Deitch, 45, of Bloomfield Hills, was elected to the University of Michigan Board of Regents. The state party treasurer, Deitch made his first try for public office.

■ Melanie Reinhold, 37, of Bloomfield Hills, lost her bid for the Michigan State University Board of Trustees. A landscape company owner, she was appointed by Gov. John Engler in 1991.

Here is the complete tabulation of education races, with the first two names being winners:

State Board — Kathleen Straus, D-Detroit, 1,868,645; Beardmore, 1,614,961; also, Roman Bochenek, D-Detroit, 1,578,897; and Greenleaf, 1,442,723. The board goes from a 5-3 Republican majority to a 4-4 deadlock in 1993.

U-M regents — Rebecca McGowan, D-Ann Arbor, 1,842,399; Deitch, 1,609,802; also

Nancy Laro, R-Ann Arbor, 1,548,579; and Nell Nielsen, 1,411,009. Nielsen is an incumbent. Democrats raised their margin to 6-2.

MSU trustees — Dorothy Gonzalez, D-Lansing, 1,816,939; Bob Traxler, D-Bay City, 1,702,108; also Reinhold, 1,595,244; and Dean Pridgeon, R-Montgomery, 1,414,807. Reinhold and Pridgeon were incumbents. Democrats take 5-3 control.

Wayne State University — Denise J. Lewis, D-Detroit, 1,798,320; Edgar A. Scribner, D-St. Clair Shores, 1,594,559; also George Bashara, R-Grosse Pointe Shores, 1,435,232; Kevin Fobbs, R-Detroit, 1,406,878. Bashara is an incumbent. Democrats take 6-2 control.

Sharp named chairman of OU board

By PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

The Oakland University Board of Trustees has a new chairman. But it could lose one of its most prominent members.

At its regular meeting Thursday, the board elected James A. Sharp Jr. of Detroit as its new chairman.

Sharp, the former mayor of Flint, is a Democrat who was reappointed to a second term on the OU board earlier this year by Gov. John Engler, a Republican.

Sharp's election came two days after last week's election that was won by another trustee. That, of course, was Tuesday's election for Oakland County executive, won by L. Brooks Patterson.

The board is asking its legal counsel to determine if there is any prohibition against Patterson



L. Brooks Patterson

son being county executive at the same time he is an OU trustee.

Another consideration is whether Patterson will have enough time to hold both positions. "I'd like to continue as



James A. Sharp Jr.

trustee," Patterson said. "It's a matter of finding enough time."

Sharp would also like to see Patterson stay on. "He brings a lot to the board," Sharp said. "He has a lot of contacts and knows how things are done."

Sharp's election was something of a break in tradition for the OU board, where previously chairmen were nominated largely on the basis of seniority.

He was elected by a 6 to 0 vote. Trustee David Handleman abstained and Trustee Larry W. Chunovich missed the meeting because of surgery.

"I think Jim will be a strong leader," said Trustee Andrea Fisher, one of those who supported Sharp. "He has a quiet manner, but he knows how to set goals and accomplish them. He works well with people, the legislature and business."

Sharp, a retired Marine, was a chief executive assistant with U.S. Sen. Donald W. Riegle Jr. before being elected Mayor of Flint in 1983.

Sharp was appointed to the OU Board in 1988 by then Gov. James Blanchard.

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