

Webb from page 2A

financial turmoil from cuts brought on by state-aid recapture. She also spearheaded the search for a new superintendent — which turned out to be Bob Maxfield — when Mike Flanagan resigned in 1993.

Elective office in Lansing would be far removed from school board affairs, but Webb sounds undaunted.

"I think people who know me don't think of me as a politician," she said. "They look at me as someone who is committed to my

community and my word is my bond.

"I think being a legislator and being a school board trustee, the office itself is different, but the person who holds that office isn't any different."

Webb sees state office as being an extension of community service, which started as a PTA member.

While her background is in education, Webb said she also has the perspective of being a mother, a wife of a CEO of an insurance

company, and the daughter of parents who are senior citizens.

"I think there's a lot more I can bring to the table," she said.

Public education has been a target of criticism, especially in conservative circles. She doesn't think her involvement will be a liability, though.

"I'm sure if someone was to run on a very extreme conservative platform and wanted to take a hit at public education . . . I would challenge them on that," Webb said. "I'd ask them to look at the

education being provided in the Farmington area, which I'm very involved with."

She doesn't want the primary to resemble the tenor of a current divisive Republican presidential race, either. Her campaign will remain positive, she said.

"It's not my style," Webb said. "And I'd certainly hope any challenger would not campaign in that manner."

"Our community doesn't need that."

Candidates from page 2A

only praise for Dolan.

"I have probably served longer than anyone else on the (Farmington Hills) city council with Jan," the former mayor said. "She's always been a lady. Nobody did more or did a better job for the district than Jan."

Paul Weldon, a Farmington Hills resident who ran against Dolan in the 1988 Republican primary, said he "wouldn't rule out" another try for the state House.

"So, she's nominated her successor, has she?" Weldon

said after being told of Dolan's support for Webb. "Sometimes that doesn't work."


Weldon said he's currently involved with Rona Romney's campaign for the U.S. Senate. He's also working for U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, whose 11th Congressional District includes the Farmington area.

Petitions for 37th District Representative must be filed with the Oakland County Elections Commission by 4 p.m. May 14. The minimum number of valid signatures is 218 and the maximum is 869.



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