

# U-M regent candidates tackle issues

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

Holding down tuition is the biggest single issue facing the University of Michigan Board of Regents, Republican and Democratic candidates agree.

The four were generally cool to the idea of chartering a public school academy, as Central Michigan University has done. And most saw public interviews under the Open Meetings Act as an impediment to attracting presidential candidates.

They answered questions at a

Sept. 26 forum sponsored by the Livonia branch of the American Association of University Women.

They were asked by moderator Yvonne Conatas about the escalating cost of post-secondary education.

Mike Bishop (R), the most recent U-M graduate among the candidates: "The cost of tuition is the No. 1 issue. Tuition is rising twice as fast as inflation - 6 percent (versus 3 percent for general inflation). It's incumbent on us to keep costs down. The benefits to unwed couples - that's first on the chopping block

When the Board of Regents in 1987-88 conducted its search for a president entirely behind closed doors, two newspapers sued and won in the state Supreme Court. The Open Meetings Act requires candidate interviews to be conducted publicly.

for me."

Libby Maynard (D), recently an adjunct instructor of social work at U-M: "We are committed to help all students. It's an issue the whole state faces."

Deane Baker (R), incumbent regent: For any young person who starts, "the university assures they'll have financial

support to continue their education. In 1978 the state provided 80 percent of the general fund budget; today, 38 percent."

S. Martin Taylor (D), Detroit Edison vice president: "It's critical that the university not price itself out of reach of the ordinary

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## Oakland educators to join rally in Lansing; many expected to take a stand for children

They're coming to Lansing on buses and in cars from all over Michigan to take a stand for the state's children on Saturday, Oct. 5.

Oakland County, educators, social service providers, families, clergy, child care workers and others from all walks of life - who are all committed to making a difference in the lives of Michigan's children - will join thousands more on Lansing's State Capitol steps to Stand for Children.

Like the national rally on June 1, the Michigan Stand for Children will be a nonpartisan day of education, entertainment and family fun. It will be a day of commitment to mobilize citizens to support the health, safety, security, and education of all children. Wendy Shepherd, Michigan Stand organizer, has defined the rally's focus as a simple Y-Volunteer and Vote. You can reach Wendy at 800-MI-STAND or visit the website at

<http://www.earthlink.net/~mich-stand/>

In Oakland County, supporters are mobilizing to attend the rally by bus, arranged by Audrey Wittup, Early On coordinator, at the behest of a coalition of child and family-centered agencies including: Association of Children's Mental Health, Child Abuse and Neglect Council, Early On, MetroParent Magazine, Oakland County Child Care Council, Oakland Family Services, Oakland Schools, and the West Bloomfield religious community. A number of bus seats are available free of charge for those who could not otherwise attend, thanks to a generous donation by Birmingham's Junior League.

"The message that we're taking to Lansing is that our commitment to children is ongoing, not a one-shot, one-day event," said Oakland Schools Superintendent Jim Redmond. "We traveled to Washington, D.C.

and now to Lansing to remind fellow citizens and taxpayers that our children are our future, a future to which we are committed fully in everything we do every day in Oakland County schools."

The Oakland County contingent, like others converging on Lansing, are collecting boxes of new shoes or boots (and socks). The shoes, a symbol of how Oakland County will help children stand for themselves, will be distributed throughout the county later in October. Drop boxes are located at:

• Birmingham School District Administration Office (550 W. Merrill, Birmingham)

• Child Abuse and Neglect Council (45 Franklin Boulevard,

Pontiac)

• Ferndale School District Administration Office (725 Pinecrest, Ferndale)

• MetroParent Magazine (24567 Northwestern Highway, Suite 150, Southfield)

• Oakland Family Services offices in Berkley, Farmington, Pontiac, Rochester Hills and Walled Lake

• Oakland Schools (2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford)

• Price of Peace Catholic Church (4300 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield)

For more information on how Oakland County plans to stand for children or to book a seat on the bus chartered for the rally, call Audrey Wittup at (810)

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