

Polls bode well for both Kaplan and Gorcyca

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

As both candidates running for Oakland County prosecutor scramble for money, each can turn to polls for comfort.

Democrat Steven Kaplan and Republican David Gorcyca each has polling results showing them to be in good shape going into the last weeks of the campaign.

Kaplan's boss, Macomb County Prosecutor Carl J. Marlinga talked about polling results that bode well for Democrats Wednesday at a fund-raiser at Fifth

Avenue Billiards in Royal Oak. "Polls show President Clinton leading in Oakland County," he said. "They show Clinton pulling 55 percent of the vote and Dole getting 33 percent."

That means strong Democratic candidates — like Kaplan — won't have the usual Republican connotations to overcome, said Marlinga. Good Democratic candidates can go head-to-head with their Republican opponents on issues and qualifications, he said.

On the same night — at a Gorcyca fund-raiser at Duggan's,

also in Royal Oak — campaign spokesman Brian Weston talked about polling numbers that bode well for Gorcyca.

A telephone survey taken in the final week of September showed Gorcyca ahead of Kaplan by 10 percentage points, said Weston. "Most encouraging," he said, "is that Gorcyca is leading in every category — with men, with women, with independents."

Both camps know that polls, regardless of how accurate, can be wrong or misinterpreted. "They are accurate three out of

four times," Marlinga said in private. "I believe polls can be reliable, but they're only reliable for that brief time frame. You never know when your poll is going to be wrong."

But polls showing Clinton ahead of Dole in Oakland are fairly consistent with polls show-

ably valid.

"Even so, they can change," said the Macomb prosecutor, "and I believe things are still rather fluid."

Weston cautioned that his polling results could breed overconfidence and complacency. "But that's not going to happen,"

While any poll can be wrong, Weston said he has reason to have faith in his. Similar polls — taken before the primary, when Gorcyca was weighing his chances against Oakland County Prosecutor Richard Thompson — showed the incumbent was vulnerable, he said.

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public bodies — including university boards — to conduct most business, including interviewing presidential candidates, in open sessions.

Dr. Paul Fecko (R): "They should be open at all times except for accusations, purchase or sale of property." (The existing OMA allows closed meetings to hear charges against an employee, purchase and lease of property but not sale of property.)

Annette Miller (D): "The most important job a board does is to choose a leader. Many (candidates) refuse to risk losing the jobs they hold. But there comes a point when it (interviews of finalists) must be done in the open."

Vernice Davis Anthony (R, incumbent): "The president does not have to be in the open."

Dr. Murray Jackson (D, incumbent): "I have some reservations. But there is no right (for the board) to not share what it's doing publicly."

(To control costs,) we should combine administrative positions."

Fecko (R): "Quality education is the most important issue. Cost is second. Tuitions have been outrunning inflation. We need to look at the university structure, look at the administration-student ratio, and lobby the government and citizens for funding."

Miller (D): "The MET program under (Gov. James) Blanchard helped parents and grandparents finance youngsters' college tuition. Even Doug Roberts (state treasurer under Gov. John Engler) bought in. The current governor said it (MET) is not cost-effective. (The challenge at WSU is) to bring the university into the 21st Century, renege programs, form collaborative programs with public schools and community colleges." She endorsed the Clinton Administration's efforts to provide aid to college students.

Charter schools

What is the university policy toward chartering public school academics?

Anthony (R): "That is still in evaluation. Wayne hasn't been aggressive in granting charters."

Miller (D): "I served 24 years on the State Board of Education. I heard Minnesota's Gov. Perpich on charter schools. It never occurred to me they would be used against public education. They should be magnet schools."

Fecko (R): "I favor innovation and charters. But you (chartering authority) also have the responsibility to supervise the schools you charter. Central

Michigan University has chartered 32 or more, but it hasn't supervised them."

Jackson (D): "Wayne State helped Detroit solve its problems (by chartering a school). I supported the first one." He added he has "misgivings" about some of the other schools chartered in Michigan.

Faculty teaching

Students sometimes complain that top faculty members do research and don't teach undergraduate students. Is that a problem?

Jackson (D): "Most students have professors in their classes. Professors teach, by and large. At Wayne, we don't have that problem."

Anthony (R): "We don't have a major problem at Wayne. Professors are necessary especially for counseling. We use graduate student assistants but under the leadership of a professor."

Miller (D): "I just completed a program in art history at Wayne. The professors were most willing to talk with us, individually and as a group."

Fecko (R): "Education is No. 1. Research and public service follow. They (professors) have an obligation to teach. If they do research, they should have students in the lab."

Candidates were quoted in the order in which they spoke. A 30-minute segment of the program was videotaped. To see it, call your local cable TV company and ask it to obtain a copy of the Sept. 26 AAUW program from Time Warner of Livonia.

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Novi. They have two grown children, Jon and Sharilyn Schleicher. Web site: <http://www.path-way.com/votenichols>.

Democrat Matthew E. Hogan, 46, of White Lake. Born in Detroit, "raised in a union family" and graduated from Ann Arbor High School.

Joined the Michigan State Police at 21. Rose through the ranks with assignments as commander of the state police posts in Pontiac, Romeo and Brighton. He is currently commander of the Brighton post and is eligible for retirement.

Member of the state police Emergency Support Team from September 1977 until December 1986. Among his most memorable SWAT team experi-

ences was negotiating with a convicted murderer for the release of a young female guard at the Huron Valley Correctional Facility.

He is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University and the F.B.I. National Academy, Quantico, VA.

Past times include coaching hockey at Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic High School in Waterford and Little Caesar's travel hockey.

Hogan and his wife Sarilyn have three children, Sean at Iona College and twins Ryan and Emily at Clarkson High School.

Web site: www.isinet.net/matthogan

— by Pat Murphy

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tremendously; it's almost unaffordable. It should rise no more than the cost of inflation. We (the board) need to look at cost containment. . . . We have to be affordable. We should never put athletics ahead of academics."

Weiss (D): "Eight years ago, I ran on this issue. I have voted against more tuition increases than any other trustee."

MSU guarantees it will not increase tuition faster than the rate of general price inflation as long as state appropriations keep pace. The state provided 60 percent of MSU's operating budget eight years ago; now it provides 50 percent. "The pack has shifted to the backs of the middle class. . . . I will fight for lower tuition."

Porteous (R): "Tuition has been a spiraling cost. There have been huge tuition increases at MSU since Weiss and Ferguson have been on the board." He approved of the policy of guaranteeing tuition won't rise faster than the rate of inflation as long as state aid keeps pace. "Tuition increases should be kept at a minimum."

Ferguson (D): "The most important step was in picking a president (who would hold down costs). I called a banker, a businessman (to be president.) Pete McPherson did many sound things and is a sound manager. . . . I picked a lifelong Republican to be president who will go down in history as another John Hannah."

Open interviews

MSU trustees face a suit for holding closed meetings prior to hiring a president. The Open Meetings Act requires that all deliberations, and all interviews of presidential candidates, be conducted in public. Candidates were asked their views on the law.

Porteous (R): "As an attorney, I've represented municipalities on the Open Meetings Act. I've never known a municipality to get in trouble with open meetings."

Ferguson (D): "I hope Mr. Porteous will never have the opportunity to pick a president. There should be rules that the final 10 or final seven (be interviewed in the open). We shouldn't be destroying individuals' careers."

Pero (R): "Meetings must be open. But I agree with Ferguson: We need a period to have preliminary discussions without putting people's lives on hold; you endanger their present job (with open interviews). When selecting a president, preliminary discussions should be behind closed doors."

Weiss (D): "It's the people's business. But in selecting a president, allegations are made but not proven. . . . to destroy that person's life. The three finalists should be interviewed in the open."

Cooperation

Can Michigan's 15 institutions

of higher education cooperate?

Ferguson (D): "The greatest failure was for MSU to think it's the University of Michigan. As we work with our agricultural component, we have undertaken an urban component (in Flint). We should recognize our own niche."

Pero (R): "Chinese studies is not big at MSU; it is at U-M. Some of these decisions (winnowing out duplicative programs) are going to be tough."

Weiss (D): "MSU has 41,000 students. Of those, 30,000 are undergraduates. Our primary purpose is undergraduate education. We can't lose sight of that; 85 percent of our students are from Michigan."

Porteous (R): "A partnership is long over due. The adversarial relationship (between universities) has to change. We have a partnership with Northwestern Michigan Community College in Traverse City in offering classes."

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