GOP incumbents fear exec will campaign for their challengers

As the May 12 filing deadline approaches, Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson is casting a long political shadow. Patterson, who has frequently feuded with the County Board of Commissioners, is believed to be involved in several individual races — in some cases targeting fellow Republicans in the Aug.4 crimary.

fellow Hepublicans in the Aug-primary.

The executive's intérest in commission races is readily acknowledged by Clarkston resi-dent Rudy Lozano, who in addi-tion to being an Oakland County Road commissioner is chair of the Oakland County Political Action Committee, which can offer invaluable financial sup-

"Of course, the executive is

port.

"Of course, the executive is active in some races." Lozano said Friday. "I know ho's already supporting fieve Toiliver. And he will likely be involved in other commission races."

Tolliver is running in District 1— Oxford, Brandon, Groveland, Holly and Rose townships—against well-known William Patterson in the GOP primary. Incumbent Ruth Johnson—with whom Patterson had a very public foud over the county's well inspection policies—is running for state representative.

One person who "definitely" sees Patterson in the primary contest is Donna Huntoon of Clarkston. "My opponent (State Rep. David Galloway) boasts about having Patterson's support," she said.

Galloway is a White Lake Republican who cannot seek re-election because of term limits. While he had not filed nominating petitions as of Friday, he announced his candidacy in March, when he also indicated

he was supported by the execu-tive.

Patterson also signed invita-tions to a Galloway fund raiser

Patterson also signed invita-tions to a Galloway fund raiser on May 7.

Huntoon said she doesn't know what may have prompted the executive to take sides in the Republican primary. But I did serve on the Well Committee, she said, referring to the com-mittee that recommended a well inspection policy with which Pat-terson took exception. That did-n't make me very popular with Brooks."

Huntoon said she isn't intimi-dated. "I've worked hard, and I'm willing to run on my record and let the chips fall where they

I'm willing to run on my record and let the chips fall where they may."

Commissioner Fran Amos, whose 5th District includes part of West Bloomfield, is somewhat concerned that Fatterson — as well as County Clerk Lynn D. Allen — is hosting a fund raiser on behalf of her primary opponent Gene Seets.

"Brooks is my constituent," said Amos, "and Mr. Seets is his (Brook's) barber."
Despite having the county's most prominent Republican in the camp of her opponent, Amos is confident. "I've worked very hard," she said. "And I believe voters will see that.

"But what is this (the executive's involvement) going to do to relations in the future?" she asked. "Some of us are going to win despite Patterson's involvement, and yet we'll have to work with him in the future."

As for Allen backing her opponent, Amos wasn't quite as concerned. "I asked Lynn about that, and he had a plausible explanation — Seets is a neighbor."

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Brooks Patterson) is active in some races.'

Rudy Lozano chairman, Oakland County Political Action Committee

Although he has no hard evidence, commissioner John P. Garfield believes Patterson will encourage a candidate to run against him in the 9th District that includes part of Rochester Wille.

that includes part of Rochester Hills.

Asked why the executive would do such a thing. Carfield cited his own independence and occasional refusal to side with Patterson.

Garfield was vocal, for example, against the county providing \$3 million to the Chrysler Corp. to be parlayed with state and federal funds for an additional ramp from its world headquarters onto 1-75 — a project supported and pushed by the executive.

tive.

Patterson's involvement —

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Patterson's involvement—whatever it might be — may never be fully known.

But those close to county government acknowledge that candidates can be "very touchy" in a political year and prone to seeing shosts.

The late Lawrence R. Pernick, the Democratic commissioner

The late Lawrence R. Pernick, the Democratic commissioner from Southfield who died last year, often referred to election years as "the silly season," said one commissioner, who asked to remain anonymous. "It's a time when we can be very touchy, even approaching paranoid," she said.

Kidney Foundation walk is set for May 16

The Detroit Zoo will be the site for the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan Second Annual Step-By-Step for a Cure Safari Walk on Saturday, May 16.
Over 1600 walkers are expected to join the NKFM for this exciting event. There are prizes for all participants and a top prize will be awarded to the walker who collects the most donations. Local celebrities will be on hand to help greet guests. In addition to the financial support, the Walk provides an

support, the Walk provides an

excellent opportunity to educate the public about the dangers of kidney disease and the importance of organ donation.

"High blood pressure and diabetes, the two leading causes of kidney failure, ..ten go undeted ed until it is too late. The Foundation feels it is important to educate the public about the dangers and warning signs of kidney disease and encourages families to participate in this fun-filled event so that everyone may learn," states Dan Carney,

executive director of the Foundation.

The festivities will begin with

registration at 8 a.m. ar. Walk will begin at 9 a.m.

For more information, please contact Joy Burns at 1-800-482-1455.



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