

# O'Brien Wants 24th

By STEVE BARNABY

FARMINGTON  
William R. O'Brien, 46, Democratic candidate for the 24th District County Commission seat against Republican incumbent, Lew Coy, is running on the theme of a "more habitable environment."

The 24th district includes Walled Lake, Wixom, Novi, Lyon Township and part of Farmington Township.

A Novi city councilman since 1969, he is a government teacher at Southfield High School and has written a master's thesis at the University of Michigan on a geographical analysis entitled "Southwest Oakland County."

In order to achieve a more habitable environment, O'Brien suggests the Oakland Board concentrate in six areas.

These "areas" are: (1) continue funding for a county staff to assist local and regional candidates to develop land-use policies which will lessen the disfunctions of urban sprawl; (2) expand adequate water and sewer services; (3) expand transportation network planning and funding to meet increasing demands of county road systems; (4) continue expansion of county funded public health services; (5) technological update of law enforcement agencies; and (6) adopt a plan to create a county chief executive.

O'Brien feels that because of his studies in the geographic make-up of the region he would be best qualified to work in planning for what he feels is the inevitable growth in Oakland County.

"I can see southwest Oakland County better than anyone else. I can do the job (of planning) better than the Southeast Michigan Council of Government, (SEMCOG) the state or Washington," he said.

Concerning water and sewer services, O'Brien said, it makes no sense to have separate sewer lines when the county could plan a unified system.

He suggested a cooperative agency between local, county and regional governments be established to handle the problem of solid waste.



WILLIAM O'BRIEN

O'BRIEN SAYS that a transportation network should be planned throughout the county to keep up with the housing developers but the county shouldn't get too far ahead in building the roads.

An attitude of "show cause," he feels, is the best way to control road construction.

O'Brien endorses publicly funded mass transit and believes that any system is satisfactory as long as it is as inexpensive, yet as efficient as possible.

Turning the west end of Oakland County as the "boonies" as far as health facilities are concerned, O'Brien sees continued expansion of county health facilities as a necessity.

He puts a special emphasis

on preventive medicine such as vaccination programs through localized clinics, but also believes that health care should be available to senior citizens who are unable to conveniently reach the large hospitals.

O'BRIEN says the solution to crime is for the county to take on the attitude of rehabilitation of criminals, emphasizing "criminals are socially sick persons who need to be cured."

The final plank in O'Brien's campaign is the continued need for political reform in county government through the elimination of committee and commission government and the adoption of a county chief executive.

"We need someone who is accountable. We began county reform with commissioner districts to serve as legislative body. We now need an elected official to accept executive responsibility of county operations," O'Brien said.

## Candidate Charges Deception

FARMINGTON  
On the eve of the election, Republicans are accusing Democratic candidate Margaret Gelinus, running against Patrick Nowak in the 24th Oakland County commissioner's district, of "unfair campaign practices."

The district includes northern Farmington Township and Commerce Township.

At issue are two mailings from Mrs. Gelinus' camp. One is a letter on county commissioner stationery; the other is a list of a "slate" which puts Mrs. Gelinus' name among Republican candidates for Commerce Township offices.

NOWAK SAYS a letter signed by Lawrence R. Pernick, Democratic chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, erroneously gives the impression that the whole board endorsed Mrs. Gelinus.

The letter, dated Aug. 25, says Pernick offers his "personal endorsement" of Mrs. Gelinus as a candidate.

The second mailing was a post card sent out by a group calling itself the "Independent Voters of Commerce."

The card lists Mrs. Gelinus under the title "Vote the Commerce Team," and includes the name of four office-holding Republicans, as well as a Democratic township trustee.

Oakland GOP Chairman Sheldon B. Smith said, "The Democratic party is trying to piggy-back on the reputations of four incumbent Republican office-holders."

Smith also challenged the "independent" label, saying, "This is a blatant attempt by the Democratic party to make Commerce voters think this mailing was the work of some independent citizens group. The Independent Voters of Commerce organization is registered under the name of a known Democrat."

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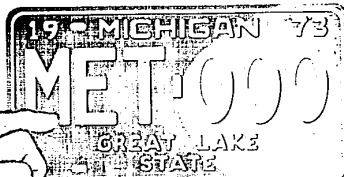
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