



A lonely decision

Elections are usually associated with crowds—crowds at political rallies, crowds waiting to see the candidate and crowds celebrating at parties. But the most important part—the casting of the ballot—is an isolated, lonely experience. This woman ponders before she takes part in the democratic process at Southfield's Birney Junior High School.

Defebaugh elected to 65th state seat

Democrat Dortha Becker's effort to "bring the two-party system to the 65th district" succumbed to the dual pressure of a staunch Republican electorate and a well-liked incumbent as James E. Defebaugh was returned to the State House for his third term.

Defebaugh, 48, emerged with an unopposed total of 8,330 votes, as compared to Mrs. Becker's 2,317.

In his two terms in the House, Defebaugh gained influence with other legislators, resulting in the success of a number of important bills and also his election as House Republican whip.

In the area of campaign reform, he co-authored a bill designed to crack down on campaign contributions and expenditures. But the bill emerged from the legislature full of loopholes, Defebaugh said, and straightening these out will be the first job he tackles upon his return to the House.

AS VICE CHAIRMAN of the House Mental Health Committee, Defebaugh was instrumental in passing the Revised Mental Health Code which codifies all Michigan's mental health statutes into one law. Ironing out the kinks in this bill, the first of its kind in the country, is another task he said he plans to undertake immediately.

Other items on the re-elected representative's agenda: The introduction of a bill to give local units of government the right to approve liquor licenses and transfers, the institution of a state job development program and an improved school transportation bill.

While Defebaugh will be busy in Lansing, Mrs. Becker, 48, will also be occupied with matters other than legislative. She based her campaign on two major issues, the economy and education, the latter being her area of expertise.



JAMES E. DEFEBAUGH

She will return to her career as an educator on Nov. 11 when she will assume charge of a first grade class at Harrington School in the Pontiac School District.

MRS. BECKER said she was not prepared to contemplate any future political involvement for herself, but intends to remain active in the Democratic Party.

She takes her defeat philosophically. "If you don't make it the first time around, it's just a part of growing up and maturing."

The 65th district includes Bloomfield Hills and parts of Southfield, Sylvania Lake, Bloomfield Township, Southfield Township and West Bloomfield Township.

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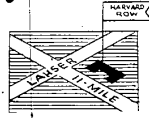
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