

Garlak faces Allen

Clerk's job: Meet people's needs

By KATHY PARKER

Is the responsiveness of county government lessening as Oakland County grows? Lynn D. Allen, incumbent Republican clerk, says he has made many positive steps to make government responsive to the needs of the people.

Mary Ann Garlak, Democratic challenger, says not enough has been done to meet the needs of the people.

Allen points to his primary accomplishment—the creation of the first on-line computerized court system in the country.

"I'm very proud of it," he says. "It has solved a large number of problems as well as saving manpower and paper work."

The system was Allen's answer to the problem of an ever-increasing number of court cases brought to court in the open.

Although a cost taxpayers \$20,000, Allen says that was a savings of more than \$60,000 in court costs to the county by cutting charges and sending the cases to other communities in states and counts.

THE COURT indexing computer locates court records, arranges filing dates, judges and other pertinent information within seconds of the request.

This saves a great deal in personnel paperwork time, Allen says. With the increasing caseloads and present personnel we would give out of our offices and big backlog in paper work without it," he says.

The computer will work for a year. Mrs. Garlak, a political novice, says she still believes improvement is vital in voter registration and voting.

Despite some advancements in other areas, voting remains a huge problem, she says. "It's a small example, but parts a large picture."

Mrs. Garlak says absentee ballots are not readily available and it is a large portion of the population is deprived of the right to vote.

Allen says when a case is filed on a can to pick up absentee ballots, he's given no more than three. It makes it increasingly difficult for institutions such as hospitals, nursing homes and a large number of senior citizens to get in and vote.

There are no checks made in county government and at all levels of government, women are ignored as responsible and hardworking, she says.

"GOVERNMENT AGENCIES have not

touched with the people," she adds. They

are no longer as responsive or sensitive as they should and could be to the man and woman on the street."

A service-oriented position, the clerk post requires charge of the mountains of paperwork stimulated by legal actions. All birth and death certificates, legal documents, deeds, mortgages, marriage licenses and court records are stored in the clerk's office. Records may be duplicated and retrieved in the county courthouse.

Voter registration is another part of the clerk's position.

Mrs. Garlak charges that registration in rural areas is unacceptable and impractical for many residents of the inner and west portions of the county.

I hear from them all the time that they are not getting the services they should," she says. "It's physical distance that is to blame, but satellite bureaus or offices

should be set up to take care of these people in the areas necessary."

Allen says he has considered placing satellite offices in outlying areas away from the hub of the county, but that is a question of how much money taxpayers are willing to pay.

People are already paving high taxes for more government, he says. "It is desirable to integrate the whole of the county in some manner, and I have several proposals."

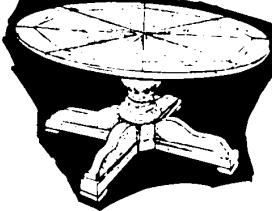
WHEN RESIDENTS need copies of records or duplicates of any kind, he could send copies out to the public via telecopier or facsimile and they could be paid up-front. There is the possibility of using a teleprocessor and reproducing the item photographically in another office. But these would be quite expensive processes and require additional personnel. How far is the taxpayer willing to go?

The county clerk also serves as clerk to the Oakland County Circuit Court, county board of canvassers board of commissioners, tax allocation board, gun board, jury commission, election commission, plat board and election scheduling commission. It is an elected partisan four-year post.

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(How proposal "A" takes us all a giant step backwards.)

On November 2, you'll be asked to vote on a forced deposit ordinance: At least ten cents on beer and pop containers...that's right! 10 cents on every can and at least 10 cents on every bottle unless specially certified.

Michigan will be the ninth area in this country to decide such an issue at the polls.

All the others voted it down.

Why?

It raises prices. It costs jobs. It's a beastly lot of trouble. And it won't stop litter.

Prices The facts of life are that when government sticks people with this kind of intervention, it has to cost. In plants, in handling, and hauling. When that cost is passed along, it costs you an extra 40 to 60 cents *per case*.

That's only the beginning. Now comes the dime deposit. 10 cents on bottles and cans. Not just bottles but *cans*. That's 60 cents a six pack. 80 cents an eight pack. \$2.40 a case.

Trouble It's a completely unreasonable burden for any family—not just in the money you're laying out, but in the aggravation of storing all those empties, loading them, carting them, standing in special lines. Remember? You

check in the empties. Then you shop. Then you check out and pay another deposit.

Jobs This proposal will eliminate skilled jobs. Thousands of Michigan families will suffer the first year.

A Flop About the only thing this proposal won't do is stop the litterer. The effect of such a proposal on reducing litter in other states is sadly disappointing. And no wonder. It doesn't even zero in on the litterer—it puts the bite on every citizen in the state, most of whom never litter.

What to do Something should be done to penalize the litterer. But Proposal A is unfair. It penalizes everybody.

If we're really against litter, let's enforce laws that penalize the real culprits and *not* the responsible citizen. Vote No to Proposal A.



VOTE NO TO HIGHER PRICES. VOTE NO TO FORCED DEPOSITS.

VOTE NO ON PROPOSAL "A"

This message has been paid for by the Committee Against Forced Deposits.



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