

Dinan wants Patterson's job

By KATHLEEN MORAN



TIMOTHY DINAN

L. Brooks Patterson has one of the most familiar names in Oakland County—and no one knows that more than his Democratic challenger for county prosecutor, Timothy Dinan.

Contesting Patterson's high voter identification has been the major problem in Dinan's person-to-person campaign.

I'm meeting a lot of people by going door to door and talking to different groups," said Dinan, a Troy attorney. "But I don't know if I can get people as he has through the news media."

Patterson has limited his campaign for reelection on the Republican ticket to pointing out his accomplishments in office. He has declined all but one invitation to appear at a public forum.

"I think I have established a certain confidence and respect for the criminal justice system in this county during my four years in office," said Patterson. "The public no longer looks on this office as a stumbling block, something they have to get around."

They have more respect for this office and the public has more confidence that we are taking on the criminals. I don't have time to be out campaigning much."

PATTERSON SAYS he has boosted the rate of convictions as charged by virtually eliminating plea bargaining for some crimes. He has worked toward establishing minimum sentences for crimes and has a handbook for teachers on dealing with students dealing with the drug problem in schools.

I looked at the City of Detroit and figured out where it had gone wrong so that I could set priorities to avoid the same things happening here in 15 years," Patterson said.

His handbook, which allows a person to plead guilty to a lesser charge in order to speed up the judicial process, has been eliminated for persons charged with drug dealing, armed robbery and in cases where an illegal weapon is involved, he said. Whereas 47 persons were found guilty as charged in similar crimes in 1972, 267 were convicted as charged last year, he said.

DINAN SAYS he would continue plea bargaining for all crimes. "Especially those crimes of assault, crimes with weapons involving drug pushers and repeat criminals."

Historically, the argument for plea bargaining has always been that there are many cases that the court machinery would virtually collapse from the sheer weight of cases with an "all in" he said.

But I believe we could lighten the court's caseload by implementing a screening and diversion program for first offenders charged with a non violent crime," he said.

Dinan says a similar system is working successfully in Genesee County. A citizen probation officer screens cases and se-

lects first offenders which it believes might be rehabilitated through the program.

THE OFFENDERS, who are adults of all ages, receive treatment with the community or are treated similar to probationers. They might be involved in counseling or some form of rehabilitation. If they violate the contract, they are then prosecuted for the offense. If they successfully complete the one-year probation, they are released.

"I feel that it's such a sensible program," said Dinan. "The beautiful thing is that it has a high success rate and it has been proven to change the person's attitude to crime."

"It also frees up law enforcement officials to pursue a screens, unswerving prosecution of more serious crimes," he added.

DINAN BELIEVES a revision of the penal code is necessary. "Many are outdated and outmoded," he said.

Minimum sentences should be mandatory for most crimes he said. Patterson notes that he has testified on behalf of legislation to establish minimum sentences for crimes such as rape and robbery.

Although the new law establishes a mandatory minimum sentence of two years for those convicted of crimes involving firearms, both Patterson and Dinan believe it should be extended to crimes involving a knife.

"A broken bottle or knife will kill you just as well," said Dinan.

The drug problem among youths could be tackled by setting up student crisis centers in each community, said Dinan. Young people should train to work with peers in combatting drug use, he said.

Patterson believes his handbook for teachers and administrators is a step toward easing the drug problem. The handbook details a teacher's rights and makes



L. BROOKS PATTERSON

suggestions on handling problems related to drugs, alcohol and other problems.

ALTHOUGH HE has been criticized for doubling his budget in four years, Patterson says he has "tripled our productivity" and "we have more money available to spend money," he said. "You notice most of it is going toward salaries. I've increased salaries so that we have some of the best trial lawyers."

Dinan thinks Patterson's "emotional approach to crime" is what has prompted the distorted view, said Dinan. "It's political ambition. He has orchestrated the media and appealed to the fears and emotions of a concerned community."

Patterson agrees that he has sought public support, which he believes is involved. "That's true. I think the public has a right to know what's going on," he said.

But I also think it has a deterrent effect. It puts criminals on notice that they will be prosecuted if caught committing a crime in Oakland County."

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Economy: "We'll never have a balanced budget now, and we'll never get to the inflationary problem as long as we have 7-1/2 million people out of work. Employment needs to be the major thrust of the whole domestic policy of our government."

Efficiency in Government: "We now have the

federal government the most bloated, confused, wasteful bureaucracy ever created.

There's no way to get an answer out of Washington and no way to understand what's going on there. We need to reorganize completely the executive branch of government, making it fair, efficient, effective, and responsive to our people's needs.

Housing: "No government that cared about our neighborhoods would stack the tax deck against them. A landlord can let a building run down and make a good living on tax breaks. But when a home owner spends a little hard-earned money fixing up his home, the assessor raises his taxes. And the FHA no longer

cares about families getting started in their own homes. I intend to restore the FHA to the time when, for a down payment, a family could get a mortgage which the government would insure."

Health Care: "We need a nationwide health care delivery system which will make adequate health care a right for all people."

Jimmy Carter has the strength to take charge of our government. If you are tired of paying the high price of Republican ineffectiveness, you have only one choice on November 2nd, and that choice is for change.

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