

2d woman on circuit bench

By MICHAEL MATUSZEWSKI

Oakland County Circuit Court now has two women judges.

The election of Bloomfield Hills attorney Hilda Gage to one of three new circuit court seats, coupled with Circuit Court Judge Alice Gilbert's loss in the state Supreme Court race, gives the Oakland bench two female judges.

Mrs. Gage, who waged a costly, media-intensive campaign through both the primary and general election, topped six candidates who vied for one of the new circuit judgeships. She tallied 143,638 votes.

Joining her on the bench will be runner-up Bernard Kaufman of West Bloomfield and 52d District Court Judge Gene Schnelz, who finished third in the balloting. Kaufman polled 110,237 votes and Schnelz, 103,331.

Trailing the three leaders were 51st District Court Judge Robert C. Anderson, 101,654 votes; Franklin attorney Judith Denney Doran, 94,213 and former-state representative Albert Kramer, 72,778.

THREE OTHER unopposed circuit court judges were elected to full terms. Chief Judge Steven Andrews polled 155,912 votes and Judges Farrell Roberts and Robert Templin, Jr., each tallied about 151,000 votes.

In the race for state Court of Appeals, Oakland voters favored incumbent Walter P. Cynar of Warren over Thomas E. Fitzgerald of Corona. The county tallies were 138,901 for Cynar to 91,674 for Fitzgerald. Cynar led in the other counties, too.

IN THE SUPREME Court race, Oakland voters' first choice was incumbent Justice James Ryan, 160,719, followed by incumbent G. Mennen Williams, 159,211.

Mrs. Gilbert ran third in the county, as she did statewide, with 138,280. Judge Gary McDonald of Saginaw trailed with 89,912.

Ryan and Mrs. Gilbert were Republican convention nominees. Williams and McDonald were Democratic nominees. They ran, however, on a nonpartisan slate.



HILDA GAGE



BERNARD KAUFMAN



GENE SCHNELZ

Oakland likes incumbents

Tuesday's election was a cakewalk for most Oakland County incumbents.

Oakland's voters, in almost every instance, returned the experienced officeholders to their old jobs by wide margins. Voters in the Observer & Eccentric area, in all but one case, gave the incumbents the nod.

The one exception came in the race for Congress in the 12th District. Oakland voters gave a majority of their votes to conservative State Rep. Kirby Holmes (R-Utica). Even though incumbent David Bonior (D-Mt. Clemens) won the election on the strength of his showing in neighboring Macomb County, Holmes won the Oakland battle, 3,274 to 2,824.

In races for Oakland's other Congressional seats, James J. Blanchard (D-Pleasant Ridge), William Broomfield (R-Birmingham) and William Brodhead (D-Detroit) were all winners.

AT THE COUNTY level, voters in the O&E area also gave overwhelming

support to experienced commissioners. The winners included: John Peterson (R-Rochester), Robert Page (R-Birmingham), Henry Hoot (R-Troy), Lillian Moffitt (R-Bloomfield Township), Lawrence Pernick (R-Southfield), Alexander Perinoff (D-Southfield), Ralph Moxley (R-Birmingham), Paul Kasper (R-Bloomfield Hills) as well as Dennis Murphy (R-Novi), Joseph Montante (R-Orchard Lake), Robert McConnell (R-Farmington Hills) and John McDonald (R-Farmington).

In all, the Republican majority on the board of commissioners got a touch stronger. They ended the election with a net gain of one seat, deflating Democratic hopes for a return to power. Republicans, beginning in January, will hold a 16-11 lead.

The Republicans' only loss at the county level came at the expense of Royal Oak's fiery incumbent, James Lanni. Royal Oak Attorney Tom Lewand defeated Lanni 5,533 to 4,478.

Oakland Republicans attributed

Lanni's defeat to a strong campaigning on the part of U.S. Rep. Blanchard. Blanchard, they say, threw Lewand heavy support at the end of the campaign.

IN STATE RACES, Oakland voters went with the incumbents. Gov. William Milliken, Attorney General Frank Kelley, Secretary of State Richard Austin, U.S. Sen. Robert Griffin, and State Reps. Richard Fessler (R-West Bloomfield), Ruth McNamee (R-Birmingham), Wilbur Brotherton (R-Farmington), James Debeauch (R-Birmingham) and Joseph Forbes (D-Oak Park) were all reelected.

In the two state races where there were no incumbents, the Democrats won. In the 61st house district, Alice Tomboulion of Oxford Township defeated Oxford's James Conlen.

And in the race for state senate in the 15th District, Douglas Ross, the former founder of the Michigan Citizens Lobby who defeated incumbent Daniel Cooper in the primary, had little trouble with Markus Simon.

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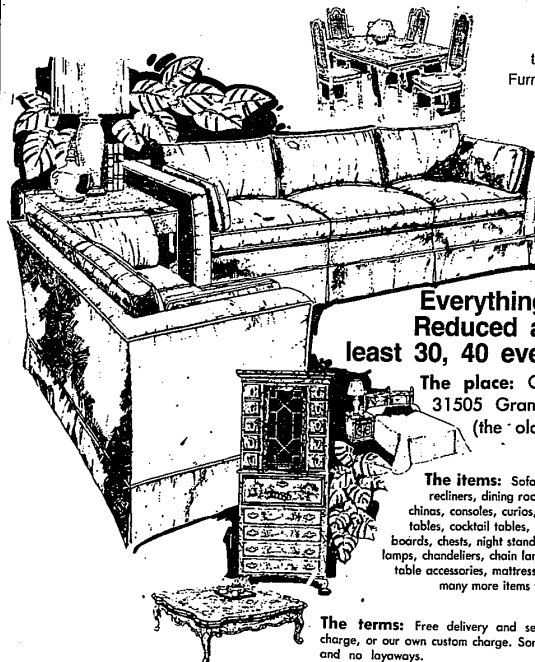
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