

OCC hopeful asks court for ballot slot

A former Oakland Community College trustee whose nominating petitions were rejected will ask Circuit Court today to order her name placed on the June 14 OCC ballot.

But the attorney for Barbara Jane Willing, 32, of Royal Oak, said the damage may be irreparable. Said John G. Makris:

"Even if they (OCC officials) came today and said 'We were wrong,' they've denied her the opportunity to meet deadlines."

"She has lost the chance to submit her biography to newspapers and the League of Women Voters. She has lost time soliciting contributions. She has missed a candidates meeting in Waterford Township."

The Madison Heights attorney will ask Circuit Judge John N. O'Brien to order the college to place Willing's name on the ballot and pay her expenses and attorney fees.

WILLING FILED 51 petition signatures — one more than the minimum of 50 — by the 4 p.m. deadline on April 27 to seek a four-year term on the OCC board.

But board secretary Gordon Henderson of Birmingham wrote her on May 5 that some of her signatures were invalid and that she couldn't be on the ballot. One reason was that five signatures couldn't be verified as registered vot-

ers, as required by law, according to handwritten notes on Willing's petitions.

Another was that six signatures were obtained prior to April 22, when trustee Richard Pappas of Troy resigned, creating the four-year vacancy.

Willing and Allan Gelfond of Farmington Hills were ruled off the ballot. Four other candidates were certified for the four-year term: Edward H. Pappas (Richard's brother), Diane V. Komar and Richard N. Corey, all of Farmington Hills, and Helen B. Cost of Royal Oak.

MAKRIS WILL argue OCC officials erred in dropping Willing's name because of the timing of her petition.

• Notes on her petitions indicated college officials checked address listings of her signers by telephone and failed to check actual voter registration records in city and township halls.

• Richard Pappas' resignation actually occurred Feb. 25 and not April 22. The latter point has made several other OCC board hopefuls bitter. Pappas announced orally Feb. 25 that he would resign to accept a position with a Des Moines area community college. The OCC board sent out notices it would fill the position by appointment and asked for applications. Many people, including Willing, applied.

The board set up a Monday night

meeting early in March to screen applications. But before it could act, Pappas said he had changed his mind about the Des Moines job and would not resign — at least not right away.

The board decided that since Pappas hadn't put his resignation in writing, and the board hadn't voted to accept it, he had never quit.

ON APRIL 22, at 10:15 p.m. on the Thursday before the filing deadline, Pappas informed the board he was resigning at that time to take a job at Jackson Community College. This time

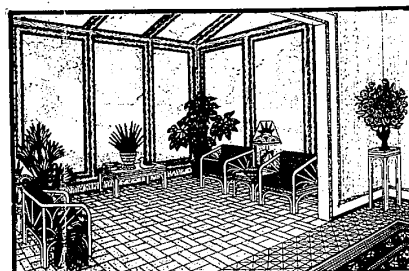
he put it in writing.

This time the board voted to accept it and posted his job to be filled at the June 14 election.

Filing deadline was 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 27.

Makris will argue that Pappas' resignation became official Feb. 25, the physical evidence being that it was in the board's minutes and the opening advertised. Therefore, any of Willing's signatures obtained after Feb. 25 are valid, he said.

Willing served one term on the board but lost out in the 1980 election.



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Admission to the market is free. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Master gardeners who have completed comprehensive horticultural training through the Cooperative Extension Service of Michigan State University will be on hand to provide free advice and answer questions on both flower and vegetable gardening.

Within 30 miles of Detroit, one million bedding plant flats are turned out each year, making the metropolitan

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Detroit's Eastern Market is located at 2334 Russell, east of I-75 and south of I-94. Plenty of free parking is available in surface lots throughout the market. Parking is also available in the recently completed three-level garage on Riopelle for a fee.

The 16th annual Flower Day is co-sponsored by the City of Detroit Bureau of Markets, the Metropolitan Detroit Flower Growers Association and the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service.

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