

# Cruce weighs options along with redistricting

**By Amy Ross**  
 staff writer

The political landscape in Oakland County is in for a change and any way you look at it, state Sen. Doug Cruce, R-Troy, has a hand in it.

One of the most powerful politicians in Michigan, Cruce is not only heading up the redistricting effort in which he has a direct interest, but he's rumored to be a possible replacement candidate for Oakland County executive.

"I'VE HEARD the rumor and had a lot of people talk to me about it," said Cruce, 43, who comfortably won re-election to his third four-year term in the 16th Senate District last fall. "I've had a lot of people say they would support me in that effort, but it's too premature to discuss who would take his place."

"It's important to realize that, number one, I'm fully supportive of Daniel Murphy. We're behind him 100 percent and want him to stay."

If Murphy resigns, the 27-member Oakland County Board of Commissioners will appoint a successor to serve until the next election in 1992.

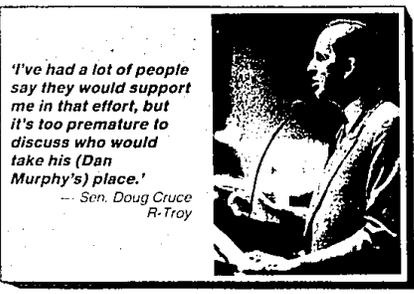
Patterson said Friday he will give "very serious consideration" to the county executive seat if Murphy resigns or decides not to run in 1992. But if Murphy runs for another term, Patterson said he would not challenge him.

"I would defer to Daniel then, because he's been Oakland County executive for all these years," Patterson said.

When asked what he would do if Murphy's position was vacated, Cruce said, "I haven't fully decided." Many changes will come to Oakland County in 1992, he said, not the least of which will be the redistricting of U.S. representative, state House and state Senate boundaries.

Cruce, who campaigned with and supported Gov. John Engler in his race against James Blanchard last fall, was appointed by Engler to chair the reapportionment committee in November.

Major changes will be in store for the state, including the loss of two U.S. Congressional seats due to population decline. The seats will likely come out of the Detroit and Flint areas, Cruce said.



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— Sen. Doug Cruce  
 R-Troy

IN ADDITION, state seats from Detroit and the near suburbs will be lost, Cruce said. Many of those seats are held by Democrats, who fear Republicans will gerrymander them off the map.

"I think the Democrats should relax and enjoy the ride. They've lost the population in those districts, and there's no way around the fact that Democrats are going to lose seats," Cruce said.

"We're going to try to do the best job and keep it out of the courts," he added, saying some politicians did challenge the last boundary changes in 1982. New boundaries probably won't be revealed until 1992, although the committee will begin working on them after final population figures are in this summer, he said.

Redistricting occurs once every 10 years, and is supposed to follow population trends, with every district containing the same number of people. U.S. Congressional districts must remain extremely close population-wise, while there can be more deviation with state House and Senate districts, Cruce said. Ten years ago there was as much as an 8 percent population difference between some state districts.

In addition, redistricting is supposed to follow city, township and county lines as much as possible. With that in mind, and considering Oakland County's growth over the last decade, Cruce said he would like

to see two U.S. congressional seats solely for Oakland County.

CURRENTLY THE COUNTY is served by five U.S. representatives, none of whom serve only Oakland County.

Creating another U.S. representative seat opens more political options for Cruce, as well as other local legislators, like state Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, rumored to be interested in national office. Cruce — whose district includes Troy, Birmingham, Royal Oak and five other southeastern county communities — acknowledges that Honigman would be a likely candidate, but reserved comment on his own intentions. Honigman's district runs west from Bloomfield Township, Bloomfield Hills and West Bloomfield.

A spokesman for U.S. Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, who serves Oakland County's largest Congressional district, reiterated Friday that Broomfield plans to run for re-election in 1992.

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## Environmental group closes Detroit office

Concern Detroit, Inc., will close up Shop Feb. 28 after 18 years in the environmental education field, director Terry Gibb announced.

She said the group will turn its programs over to the many groups

and governmental entities it has trained and dealt with over the years.

A Concern Detroit environmental award has been established through Cranbrook/Horizons-Upward Bound to preserve its philosophy and ideals

ITB is a program which has for 26 years assisted high school students from low-income families to realize the advantages of higher education. This award will promote environmental awareness, and sensitize the ITB community to recycling and re-

sponsible consumerism. Concern will provide a list of resources for environmental information and programs available throughout the metropolitan Detroit area. Its telephone number is (313) 463-0065.

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