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## Howe from page 5A

differences between the two of us."

Early indication: it's going to be more a campaign of personalities than issues, with Patterson's outspoken, flamboyant personality a key issue.

Underlining the point, Howe has joined the long list of county Democrats praising retiring executive Daniel Murphy.

"Dan wasn't somebody with a high profile and I'm not sure that isn't the best way to go about the job," she said.

A former Rochester resident, Howe now lives in Pleasant Ridge. "I'm one of the few Oakland County people who moved from north to south," she joked.

### Managerial experience

Democrats are contrasting Howe's administrative experience — she's also been a Michigan State University trustee, a public affairs manager for Bendix Corp. and gen-

eral manager for United-Niederlander Cable — with Patterson's much-publicized, though unsuccessful, attempts for state and national office.

"She's a top flight manager with substantial experience in the public and private sector," county party chairman Donald Tucker said.

Tucker had earlier characterized Patterson as a questionable administrator unsuccessful in his post-elective career.

Republicans say Democrats will reap what they sow.

"I'm getting sick of all these attacks on Brooks," county GOP chief James Alexander said. "Our campaign is going very well, he's already exceeded his fund-raising goal and the polls look good. My advice to him is to take a look at the tone and tenor of the Democratic campaign. They will be a distinct minority in county government after the election."

Howe, though, isn't one to duck a fight or challenge.

"We expect an aggressive cam-

paign," she said. "Anytime you go against Brooks Patterson you can expect one in kind," she said.

Though personalities could dominate, Howe said issues won't be ignored.

On solid waste issues, Howe is calling for greater emphasis on recycling.

"That was one of the major problems with the proposed waste-to-energy incinerator, it lessened the recycling effort," Howe said.

The controversial — still unbuilt — incinerator looms as a campaign issue, especially since Patterson was among its outspoken advocates.

Howe also said she'll soon issue a position paper on mass transit. SMART — a suburban bus service primarily serving Oakland residents — seeks to merge with the Detroit Department of Transportation bus service.

"I will be coming forward with a document on mass transit," Howe said. "But this isn't the time. There's a lot already out there at the beginning of the campaign."

### Werth steps back

Tucker had broadly hinted the party would nominate a female. Initial speculation centered on former Michigan first lady Paula Blanchard. While Blanchard declined, longtime Rochester city councilman Thomas Werth announced his candidacy.

Tucker said he brought Howe and Werth together last weekend to discuss the campaign.

"Tom thought that Betty was the better candidate," he said. Democrats made Werth their choice for county treasurer.

During her Bendix career, Howe served as executive assistant to the chairman and was on the transition team when company chairman W. Michael Blumenthal became U.S. Treasury Secretary. At the same time, she served as county party chairwoman.

Elected to the MSU board in 1990, Howe resigned two years into her term to join the Blanchard Administration.

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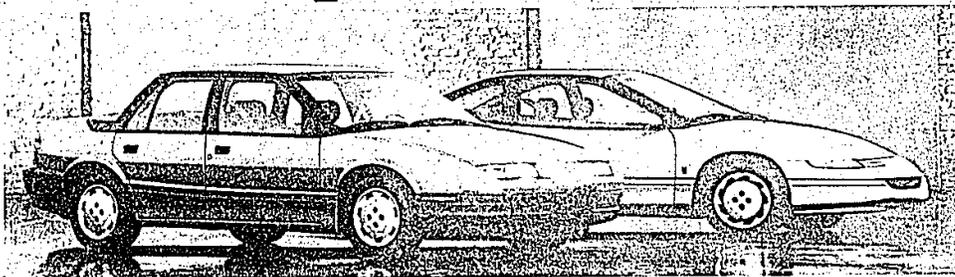
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