

# Election error changes OCC board makeup

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STAFF WRITERS

Sandra Ritter is back on the Oakland Community College board after a re-tabulation of Royal Oak ballots showed she won the June 10 election.

Double-counting of absentee ballots in Royal Oak gave unofficial victory on election night to the challenger slate of Jeanne Towar and John Wangler. The new results, released Tuesday morning after a canvass by the election commission, showed:

- Towar still first with 10,034.
- Ritter second and elected with 9,649.
- Wangler third and losing with 9,619, a margin of 130 votes.



John Wangler, taking third



Sandra Ritter, reelected



Jeanne Towar, top finisher

Unofficial results had shown Royal Oak giving a 3,000-vote plurality to Towar and Wangler and putting them over the top.

"So I'm not on? This is the first I heard," said Wangler, an OCC faculty member, when contacted Tuesday noon at his Bingham Farms home.

He planned to consult Southfield attorney George Mosher about his next move, if any. Mosher, a former trustee, helped put together the Towar-Wangler ticket.

A recount would cost \$10 for each of the 274 precincts, including 20 counting boards for absentee ballots, in 28 school districts. He has by late until Monday to decide whether to seek a recount.

"Ritter, a Waterford middle school teacher and MEA member, said, "I'm excited."

"Asked her agenda for the six years ahead, she said, "Same agenda as in the last 32 years - helping the students."

"Would she run for board chair, almost she held for four years in the past? "I'm thinking about just being a trustee," Ritter replied.

Oakland County director of elections Mary Jo Hammond explained that vote results are always unofficial until they are checked by the board of canvassers. She said minor discrepancies are common in tabulating election results; however, when comparing the vote totals com-

the evening of the election, June 10.

The city of Royal Oak is paid to run elections for Royal Oak schools, according to both. Royal Oak city manager Larry Doyle and school superintendent Fritz Esch. There are 33 precincts plus the absentee ballots that count as a 34th precinct.

"We had a (school) person at city hall," Esch said. When results were called over, "staff members at the board office picked up on the figures and said 'that's not true.'" The city was asked the night of the election to validate its figures and found the error. The correct breakdown of absentee votes was then called to Royal Oak school offices.

"OCC never called back at the end of the election to validate (results)," Esch added. "The following morning the results were validated by Royal Oak's clerk and the results were hand-carried to the county."

OCC spokeswoman Annesa Carlisle said that "Election results the college receives on election night from the individual districts are for informational purposes only; they are preliminary results, with the understanding that they are unofficial. It is not the college's role to verify results, that responsibility lies with the county elections office. Any results we have remain unofficial until the elections

### OCC revised election results

James A Doyon	3,302
Ellen K. Ferguson	5,298
Lawrence Dean Kohl	3,515
Jan Mack	1,928
<b>SANDRA L. RITTER</b>	<b>9,649</b>
Thomas P. Sullivan	4,331
<b>JEANNE TOWAR</b>	<b>10,034</b>
Marguerite Fitzsimmons Walker	1,959
John A. Wangler	9,519
Others	53
<b>Total votes</b>	<b>49,588</b>

office provides us with official results.

"On election night, we received one phone call from the Royal Oak District at approximately 10:30 p.m. reporting the unofficial results," she added.

Doyle said the error occurred due to a computer malfunction in a vote tabulator that adds up

totals for all precincts. When the absentee ballot vote was entered into the machine, it read 33 of 34 precincts. So a computer operator thought it had not been counted and reentered the absentee ballots, with the result this time of the computer saying all 34 precincts were counted.

See RITTER, A7

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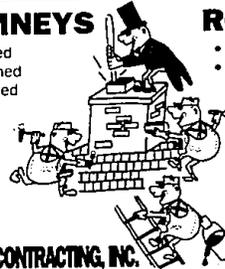
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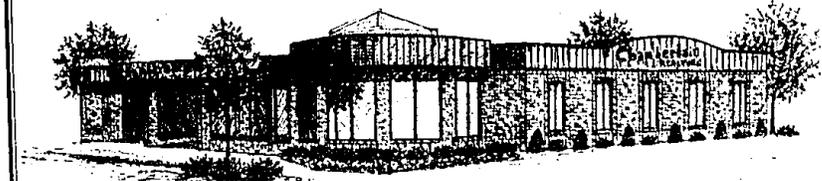


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