

Oakland County's contribution to the statewide gubernatorial race was an issue of interest to Oakland County courthouse election workers. (Photographed by Patti Beck)

County voters back Levin

OAKLAND COUNTY — As Oakland County went so went the state in the gubernatorial race.

Seventy-one percent of Oakland County Democratic voters cast their ballots for Sander M. Levin of Berkeley.

With as few as 35 key precincts counted, state-wide election watchers gave the race to Levin early Tuesday evening.

Before midnight Jerome P. Cavanagh of Ann Arbor publicly conceded his defeat.

When the final county tally was chalked up in the early Wednesday morning winner Levin received 57,267 votes, Cavanagh 14,659 and dark-horse candidate James E. Wells of Southfield 10,115.

Levin will face Republican incumbent, Gov. William Milliken on the November ballot. More than 35,000 Oakland County Republicans voted for Milliken on his uncontested primary race.

In 1970 Levin lost a similar battle with Milliken by only 44,000 votes statewide.

During the heat of primary campaigning neither Levin nor Cavanagh were seen actively campaigning in Oakland County. Campaign watchers early theorized that Cavanagh had conceded the race to "hometown boy" Levin.

Although Wells has gained notoriety over the past few years on the anti-busing and the Pontiac Stadium issues, few expected him to make a real dent in Oakland County or across the state.

Oakland — 1 of 5 counties to consider unification

By SUSAN L. SILK

LANSING — By considering unification of county government Oakland County joins very exclusive company.

According to the Michigan Association of Counties (MAC), only five counties in the state are expected to bring the issue before the voters this year. MAC has just completed a survey of the state's 83 counties.

"We've heard from 76 counties, about 92 percent, and two for sure are placing the issue on the primary ballot. Three others may have it on the November ballots," said Tom Sutberry, MAC administrative assistant.

OAKLAND and Muskegon counties asked their voters if they wanted to unify county government on the primary ballot, Sutberry said.

Macomb, Washtenaw and Wayne counties have indicated the question will appear on their November ballots.

In Oakland, voters were asked if they wanted unification and an elected or appointed fulltime administrator.

That second option — appointed or elected executive — will face voters in Muskegon and Macomb counties.

SURVEY RESULTS show that at present Washtenaw voters will be asked only if they want unified government under an appointed manager. In Wayne County, voters will be asked whether they want to unify with an elected executive.

MAC is not surprised that so few counties are addressing themselves to the issue, labeled by many as the most important question on the Oakland County primary ballot.

"We weren't surprised, given the amount of time (between passage of Public Act 139 and the primary filing date)," Sutberry said.

Pool lift available

A swimming pool lift for the handicapped is available now at the Royal Oak YMCA, 1016 W. Eleven Mile Road.

The hydraulic lift uses a canvas sling to lower handicapped swimmers into the water and raise them out again. Handicapped people are invited to participate in recreational swimming from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday throughout August.

No fee will be charged for handicapped swimmers, but they must be accompanied by another person. Lifeguards are provided.

The lift was presented to the YMCA by nine federated women's clubs in the Oakland area. The device is believed to be the first of its type in the area.

An evening hour for handicapped swimmers may be added to the Royal Oak YMCA fall schedule if enough people are interested in participating.

For additional information, call Jim Wiseman or George Cummings, 547-0030.

Voters back area residents

OAKLAND COUNTY — If it were only up to Oakland County voters to decide on the four candidates to appear on the November ballot in the Court of Appeals, second division, four local men would be selected.

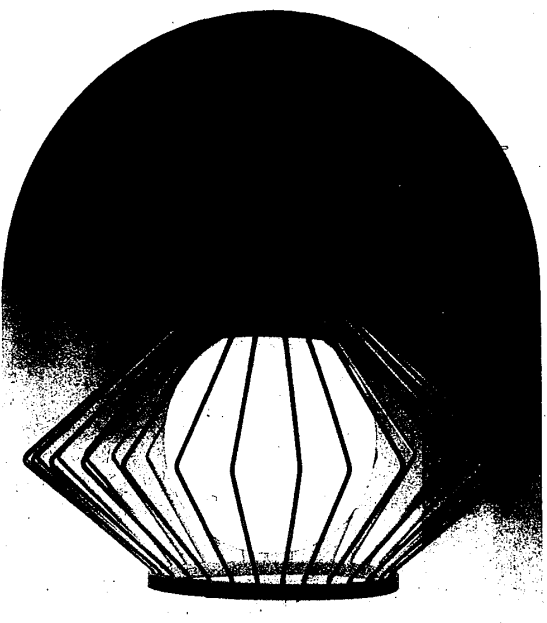
However, the four candidates for those two new judgeships are determined by the vote from 14 counties, including Oakland. Fifteen candidates campaigned for the posts.

Here voters gave the largest number of votes to Bernard L. Kaufman (23,188), Farrell E. Roberts (22,386), Michael J. Kelly (17,344) and James Clarkson (16,478).

Roberts, a Bloomfield Hills resident, is an Oakland County Circuit Court judge. Southfield resident Clarkson is a 46th District Court judge.

Attorney Kaufman lives in West Bloomfield Township, and Kelly is from Bloomfield Hills.

Election results compiled by the Secretary of State's office in Lansing were not available at press time.



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