



# Doctor leads GOP race for Smith's House seat

By FRITZ WENZEL  
BLADE POLITICAL WRITER

Battle Creek physician and former state Sen. Joe Schwarz was on his way to the Republican nomination for Michigan's 7th District congressional seat last night, edging, among others, the son of the man who is retiring from the seat.

Tim Walberg, a Tipton pastor, and Brad Smith, a lawyer from Addison and son of Rep. Nick Smith (R, Addison) were locked in a tight battle for second.

Finishing back in the pack were state Rep. Clark Bisbee

of Jackson; Gene DeRossett, a construction company founder from Saline, and physician Paul DeWeese of Eaton Rapids.

Congressman Smith is retiring after 12 years. He won the seat by more than 60 percent of the vote in his last two re-election bids, but also had some closer races.

Mr. Schwarz, a moderate, said a key to his apparent success in the race was his focus "on real issues," while his opponents concentrated on issues that catered specifically to conservatives.

"Guns, gays, and abortion" were talked about too much by



Schwarz

making sure our kids are educated, and our universities are doing well, and there's a pipeline of innovation out there to help

his opponents, he said. "That's fine, but those aren't the real issues out there. The real issues are economic. They had to do with rescuing the health care system in this country, they had to do with

the economy."

On the Democratic side, Sharon Marie Renier was on her way to victory over two opponents: Drew Walker, a government consultant, and Doug Wilson, who labeled himself as a "working man."

Partial election returns had her winning about 50 percent of the vote.

Ms. Renier emphasized education, health care, and civil rights in her primary campaign.

She did not respond to calls last night for comment.

The district includes seven

counties in south central and eastern Michigan stretching from Battle Creek at the western edge to Ann Arbor in the east. The district also includes some suburbs of Lansing, but features mostly rolling farmland.

Michigan's delegation in the U.S. House has a decided Republican tilt.

Nine of the 15 members are from the GOP, while six are Democrats. But both U.S. senators are Democrats.

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MICHIGAN SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT	
<b>Republicans</b>	
Clark Bisbee .....	9,847
Gene DeRossett .....	9,652
Paul DeWeese .....	3,681
✓ Joe Schwarz .....	18,037
Brad Smith .....	15,144
Tim Walberg .....	12,253
<b>Democrats</b>	
✓ Sharon Marie Renier ...	7,599
Drew Walker .....	3,704
Douglas Wilson.....	3,600

## MICHIGAN ISSUES



Voters exit Bedford Alliance Church on Jackman Road. Monroe County voters approved a 1-mill property tax for the library.

# Monroe Co. hangs up on phone surcharge

## Funds were earmarked to finance loan for emergency radio system

By GEORGE J. TANBER  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

MONROE — Voters in Monroe County last night overwhelmingly rejected a \$1.60 per month surcharge on their telephone bills that was to pay for the loan to finance the county's new \$9.3 million emergency radio system.

The request was defeated in most of the county's jurisdictions.

Unless another request is put forward in November, the local units of government will be footing the \$200 annual bill for each of the 1,200 new radios that will be put in service on the county's new 800 mhz system later this year.

"I think it's the locals problem now," county commission Chairman V. Lehr Roe said after the defeat. "They didn't want to support it, so now they'll have to pay it."

County officials now face a decision on how to use their already tight budget to pay off the \$3.3 million loan that they took out to build the system.

Meanwhile, a similar proposal in Lenawee County passed comfortably.

In Monroe, the county had hoped to triple the monthly surcharge from 80 cents to \$2.40 for the next five years. That would have cost homeowners with a single line \$28.80 a year, or an increase of \$18.20. The surcharge would have raised about \$2.3 million a year.

Monroe County is in the process of a \$9.3 million overhaul of its 50-year-old system. Emergency workers in the county will join the statewide 800 megahertz communications system operated by Michigan State Police later this year thanks to a \$6 million federal grant that is paying most of the upgrade cost.

The remaining costs — a \$3.3 million loan, construction of a dispatch center outside the 10-mile evacuation radius of the Fermi II Nuclear Power Plant, and

the annual microphone fees for the municipalities on the system were to be covered by the county had the surcharge passed.

Passage of the Lenawee County proposal by a 6,292-to-5,411 margin means the county will be able to update its emergency radio service with new equipment purchases, hire employees, and expand the cramped 911 system center in the sheriff's department in Adrian.

"We're all relieved and excited," said Lt. Randy Kelly, who directs central dispatch for the county's sheriff's department. "We worked diligently on this trying to get it passed. But our work is just beginning. Now we have to show the community that we're going to do what we said we're going to do. We're going to start implementing the changes right away."

With passage of yesterday's proposal and subsequent 14 percent increase, residents will pay \$2.52 a month per phone line for the two-year duration of the measure. The new surcharge will generate \$3.2 million in 2005-06.

Also in Monroe County, voters approved replacing a pair of library millages with a single, slightly larger 1-mill property tax that will allow the system to expand hours and services at its 16 branches.

Monroe voters also overwhelmingly approved a 0.5-mill renewal of a senior citizen levy, which funds the county's senior centers and meal and transportation programs.

Monroe County fire and road millage renewals in Ida, Summerfield, and Whiteford townships also passed.

Voters in Bedford Township approved an increase to the property tax that funds Lake Erie Transit's Dial-A-Ride service.

In Lenawee, fire and road mill-

MONROE COUNTY	
<b>911 proposal</b>	
Increase in phone line surcharge to upgrade 911 system and emergency radio service	
For: 4,461 .....	✓ Against: 14,410
<b>County libraries</b>	
1-mill levy	
✓ For: 9,666 .....	Against: 9,417
<b>Senior citizens services</b>	
0.5-mill renewal levy	
✓ For: 14,788 .....	Against: 4,385
<b>Bedford Township</b>	
0.2-mill, 4-year levy for bus service	
✓ For: 1,769 .....	Against: 1,576
<b>Ida Township</b>	
0.5-mill, 4-year renewal levy for fire operations and equipment	
✓ For: 432 .....	Against: 157
<b>Summerfield Township</b>	
2-mill, 4-year renewal levy for fire operations and equipment	
✓ For: 303 .....	Against: 205
1-mill, 4-year renewal levy for road repairs	
✓ For: 331 .....	Against: 176
<b>Whiteford Township</b>	
1-mill, 5-year renewal levy for fire operations and equipment	
✓ For: 453 .....	Against: 89
1-mill, 4-year renewal levy for road repairs	
✓ For: 330 .....	Against: 181
<b>LENAWEE COUNTY</b>	
<b>911 proposal</b>	
Increase in phone line surcharge to upgrade 911 system	
✓ For: 6,292 .....	Against: 5,411
<b>Blissfield Township</b>	
1-mill, 2-year levy for fire operations	
✓ For: 534 .....	Against: 133
<b>Blissfield Township</b>	
1-mill, 2-year levy for road improvements	
✓ For: 441 .....	Against: 213

age renewals in Blissfield, Deerfield, Fairfield, Ridgeway, and Riga townships passed, although Riga voters turned down a second road improvements levy.

<b>Blissfield Township</b>	
0.5-mill, 2-year renewal levy for road improvements	
✓ For: 453 .....	Against: 205
<b>Deerfield Township</b>	
3-mill, 1-year renewal levy for road and bridge repair	
✓ For: 124 .....	Against: 101
<b>Deerfield Township</b>	
0.25-mill, 1-year renewal levy for fire department	
✓ For: 169 .....	Against: 68
<b>Deerfield Township</b>	
0.5-mill, 1-year renewal levy for fire equipment	
✓ For: 164 .....	Against: 61
<b>Fairfield Township</b>	
1.5-mill, 4-year renewal levy for fire department	
✓ For: 232 .....	Against: 79
<b>Fairfield Township</b>	
2-mill, 4-year renewal levy for road and bridge maintenance	
✓ For: 223 .....	Against: 87
<b>Ridgeway Township</b>	
1-mill, 6-year renewal levy for township roads and bridges	
✓ For: 122 .....	Against: 51
<b>Ridgeway Township</b>	
1-mill, 4-year renewal levy for firefighting equipment and maintenance	
✓ For: 127 .....	Against: 44
<b>Ridgeway Township</b>	
1-mill, 4-year renewal levy for fire department and roads and bridges	
✓ For: 121 .....	Against: 52
<b>Riga Township</b>	
2-mill, 1-year renewal levy for roads and bridges	
✓ For: 181 .....	Against: 105
<b>Riga Township</b>	
1-mill, 1-year renewal levy for fire department	
✓ For: 216 .....	Against: 72
<b>Riga Township</b>	
2-mill, 1-year additional levy for roads and bridges	
For: 124 .....	✓ Against: 160

Blade staff writer Larry Vellequette contributed to this report.

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Three seats on the county board of commissioners had intra-party contests yesterday.

Incumbent William Sisk defeated fellow Democrat Edward Widner to represent District 5, while Republican Henry Lievens defeated David Vaughan to run against Democrat Sharon Jaworski in District 1 in November.

In District 7, Democrat and ex-county commissioner Paul Iacoangeli beat Leo Heroux and Wayne Meehean to face off against incumbent Republican N. Randy Ansel this fall.

In Bedford Township, Republican trustee Arnold Jennings was last in a five-way race for four open trustee slots on the fall GOP ticket in yesterday's only contested race.

Democrats in Erie Township chose newcomer Paul Mikels over ex-county prosecutor William Frey to face Republican Raymond Dusseau for the township supervisor's job being vacated by Dan Bonkoski.

Also in Erie, Democrat Amy Whipple beat Diane LaPlante for the right to run against incumbent clerk Gayle Burlen. Mrs. Burlen has filed as an independent to keep her job.

Incumbent Erie Township trustee Denise Gordy and fellow Democrat Tad Cousino beat Maggie Dusseau to run against independent Tim Rich for Erie's two open trustee seats.

In Summerfield Township, Republican Kevin Iott will face incumbent Democrat Zelda Lucas in November for supervisor; Republicans Mark Strahan and Dale Wagenknecht will face off against Democrat James Seegert for two open trustee seats.

In Monroe Charter Township, supervisor Alan Barron won a three-way race to keep his job over fellow Democrats Gary Diehl and Sue Johns, while Pat Kegerreis defeated fellow Democrat Julie Althaver to become the only township treasurer candidate in November.

Greg Lane beat fellow Republican Robert Hotchkiss to run against Democrat Ronald Iott for the Ida Township Supervisor's job being vacated by Larry Metz.

In Frenchtown Charter Township, James Spas lost to fellow Democrat James McDevitt for the right to run against Republican Marty Selvidge for township supervisor. Also in Frenchtown, Democrats Bernard Felder and Jeff Grodi were knocked off the six-way ballot for four township

## MONROE COUNTY RACES

# Democrats, Republicans jostle for Nov. 2

## Nichols wins bid to succeed prosecutor

By LARRY P. VELLEQUETTE  
BLADE STAFF WRITER

MONROE — Monroe County Democrats yesterday chose to elevate a longtime deputy to succeed the retiring Norm Blanchett as county treasurer in partisan primary voting yesterday.

Kay Sisung defeated A. Joseph Keane among Democrats to be the Democratic candidate for treasurer, a choice that should guarantee a November win because no other candidates have filed for the office.

Elsewhere on the county ballot, Chief Assistant Prosecutor William Paul Nichols won his bid to succeed his boss, Mike Weipert, who is unopposed for the Circuit Court bench.

Mr. Nichols beat fellow Democrats Jeffery Dulany and Joseph Yanoschik to run against Republican John Luchansky in November.

MONROE COUNTY	
Contested races	
<b>Treasurer</b>	
A. Joseph Kean (D).....	3,674
✓ Kay Sisung (D).....	8,492
<b>Prosecutor</b>	
✓ John Luchansky Jr. (R)	4,247
Jeffrey Dulany (D) .....	3,504
✓ William P. Nichols (D)...	7,474
Joseph Yanoschik (D) .....	1,245
<b>Drain Commissioner</b>	
✓ Jan Jay (R) .....	3,729
Juan Melendez (D).....	532
Lewis Roe Sr. (D) .....	2,751
✓ Daniel Stefanski (D) .....	4,840
Jim Vaslo (D) .....	4,565
<b>County Commission</b>	
<b>District 1</b>	
✓ Sharon Jaworski (D) .....	660
Henry Lievens (R) .....	724
✓ David Vaughan (R).....	251
<b>District 5</b>	
✓ William Sisk (D) .....	1,403
Edward Widner (D) .....	281
<b>District 7</b>	
✓ N. Randy Ansel (R) .....	378
Leo Heroux (D).....	226
✓ Paul Iacoangeli (D) .....	929
Wayne Meehean (D) .....	337
<b>Bedford Township</b>	
<b>Trustee</b>	
<i>(four to be elected)</i>	
✓ Mick Dier (D) .....	1,025
✓ C. Kegerreis-Jan (D) ....	1,073
✓ Kenneth Kilman (D) .....	982
✓ Larry O'Dell (D) .....	1,177
✓ Paul Francis (R) .....	963
Arnold Jennings (R) .....	724
✓ Richard Steiner (R) .....	861
✓ Dennis Steinman (R).....	746
✓ Kevin Wexler (R) .....	760
<b>Erie Township</b>	
<b>Supervisor</b>	
✓ Raymond Dusseau (R) ....	85
William Frey (D) .....	238
✓ Paul Mikels (D) .....	259
<b>Clerk</b>	
Diane LaPlante (D) .....	214
✓ Amy Whipple (D) .....	265
<b>Trustee</b>	
<i>(two to be elected)</i>	
Maggie Dusseau (D) .....	270
✓ Tad Cousino (D) .....	280
✓ Denise Gordy (D) .....	273
✓ Tim Rich (I)	
<b>Frenchtown Charter Township</b>	
<b>Supervisor</b>	
✓ Marty Selvidge (R).....	350
✓ James McDevitt (D) ....	1,167
James Spas (D) .....	856
Bob Polk (D) .....	341
<b>Trustee</b>	
<i>(four to be elected)</i>	
✓ Duane Babcock (R) .....	254
✓ Ignazio Cuccia (R) .....	235
✓ Thomas Fox (R) .....	251
Bernard Felder (D) .....	1,056
Jeff Grodi (D) .....	1,105
✓ H. Berg. Kaufman (D) ..	1,313
✓ Tom Kuehnlein (D) .....	1,109
✓ Jack Lindquist Sr. (D) ..	1,280
✓ Kraig Yoas (D).....	1,295
<b>Ida Township</b>	
<b>Supervisor</b>	
Robert Hotchkiss (R) .....	59
✓ Greg Lane (R) .....	198
Ronald Iott (D) .....	203
<b>Constable</b>	
Lance Charter (R) .....	175
✓ Gary Charter (R) .....	214
<b>Monroe Charter Township</b>	
<b>Supervisor</b>	
✓ Alan Barron (D) .....	659
Gary Diehl (D) .....	326
Sue Johns (D) .....	543
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Julie Althaver (D).....	493
✓ Pat Kegerreis (D) .....	1,003
<b>Summerfield Township</b>	
<b>Supervisor</b>	
✓ Zelda Lucas (D) .....	113
Richard Garst (R) .....	157
✓ Kevin Iott (R) .....	197
<b>Trustee</b>	
<i>(two to be elected)</i>	
Robert Ignatowicz (R) .....	96
Fred Smith (R).....	156
✓ Mark Strahan (R) .....	179
✓ Dale Wagenknecht (R)....	181
✓ James Seegert (D).....	106

trustee posts.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

DETROIT — Detroit residents approved a proposal yesterday to legalize medical marijuana use in a largely symbolic victory for those who hope to rewrite the state's drug laws.

With 98 percent of precincts reporting, 59 percent, or 38,604 votes, were in favor of Proposal M, while 41 percent, or 26,497 votes, were against.

The vote changes the city code, creating an exception to

the marijuana ban for people who use the drug for medical purposes under a doctor's direction. But the change has no effect on federal and state laws that allow prosecution of those possessing or using marijuana.

The initiative's backers acknowledge that there will be little practical effect from the change and view the measure as a step toward rewriting the state's drug laws.

Timothy Beck, founder of the

Detroit Coalition for Compassionate Care, which collected signatures to put the measure on the ballot, said his group will work to change state laws after the Detroit vote and one slated for November in Ann Arbor.

Mr. Beck said the group will work with lawmakers to put the issue before the state Legislature or push for a statewide ballot initiative in 2006.

Opponents of the change say it will send the wrong message

to young people about drug use and is part of a push for broader legalization of marijuana.

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont, and Washington state have passed laws allowing the use of marijuana for medical purposes. The U.S. Supreme Court said in June that it will rule on the issue in the case of two California women who say marijuana is the only drug that eases their pain.