

**editorial**

- cover story
- lakes area news
- environment
- public safety
- state and county
- transportation
- education
- the interview
- in our opinion
- letters
- sportsweekly

**extras**

- archives
- business review**
- court complaints
- beach closings
- oaklandcounty.com
- real estate
- lake levels
- oaklandlakefront
- school rankings
- sex offenders
- monthlyadvertiser
- wo directory

**classifieds**

**merchants**

**legal ads**

**local links**

- governments
- libraries
- schools
- state lawmakers

**blogs**

- annette liike
- brian kath
- kelly garrett

**entertainment**

- tv listings

**hot news tip?**

Send your news tip anonymously to the Spinal Column Newsweekly newsroom.

▶ [Click Here](#)

[about us](#)

[contact us](#)

[our publications](#)

[our website](#)



Fri, Jul 27, 2007 10:13 AM

**state and county** ▶

## Eileen Kowall seeks state House seat

Kirk Pinho

July 25, 2007 - Oakland County Commissioner Eileen Kowall (R-Waterford, White Lake) has announced she is running for the Michigan House of Representatives in 2008.

Kowall hopes to succeed state Rep. John Stakoe (R-Highland, White Lake). In his third two-year House term, Stakoe is term limited in 2008 and will not be eligible to run for re-election. He represents the 44th House District, which also includes Springfield and Independence townships.

Kowall last week officially filed her statement of organization, which allows her to begin raising funds for her campaign warchest. She said she hasn't specifically set up any fund-raising events as of yet, but will soon.

"I've already got quite a few — how would you say — pledges, that they are there for me, now that I've filed (candidate documents)," Kowall said, adding that she's going to be out "beating the bushes."

"I've got my campaign plan in place, and I'm moving forward," she said. "I've got endorsements lined up and I'll be coming out publicly with those very soon. I'm excited."

Michigan Secretary of State Office Spokesman Ken Silfven said the filing deadline for state House of Representatives candidates is 4 p.m. on May 13, 2008.

Local Republican and Democratic officials were either tight-lipped or didn't know who among the GOP might challenge Kowall in the August 2008 primary election, or who would be seeking Kowall's 6th District Board of Commissioners seat next year.

"Right now, there is no candidate that has kind of emerged yet," said Oakland County Democratic Party Chairman David Woodward, also a county commissioner representing Royal Oak.

Oakland County Board of Commissioners Chairman Bill Bullard, Jr. (R-Highland) said Kowall will likely face competition in the Aug. 5, 2008 Republican primary, but said he doesn't know of anyone who will be tossing their hat into the ring. He said Kowall, at this point, would "definitely" be considered the front-runner in the race to replace Stakoe.

"I would be surprised if that seat doesn't produce another (Republican) primary candidate," Woodward said.

The 44th House District "very solidly" leans to the GOP, according to Oakland County Republican Party Chairman Dennis Cowan. He said Kowall will be a "formidable" candidate for the seat.

Cowan said he has talked to people about succeeding Kowall at the county commission table, as well as other GOP candidates who may make a run for Stakoe's House seat in the primary election. However, he said he's not at liberty to disclose potential candidate names since those individuals have yet to make a final decision about whether to run.

**state and county**

- ▶ Campaign reports now available at county's web site
- ▶ Get More state and county

**extras**

- ▶ comments to this article
- ▶ e-mail this article link to a friend
- ▶ print this article

**site search**

Search Text  
Search among:

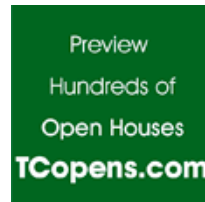
- editorial
- authors

**net search**

Search Text  
google

**national news**

- ▶ Fox News
- ▶ CNN
- ▶ MSNBC
- ▶ USA Today



"I'm going to respect their decision-making process," he said.

The 2008 general election will be held on Nov. 4.

State representatives serve up to three two-year terms and are currently paid an annual salary of \$79,650.

County commissioners serve two-year terms and are currently paid about \$33,000 a year.

Like the state's 44th House District, the county's 6th Board of Commissioners District traditionally has been served by Republicans.

Stakoe, reached Monday, July 23, focused on the fact that he still has a year and a half left in the House before his term expires. However, he said seeking the state Senate seat currently occupied by Nancy Cassis (R-Commerce, Milford, Highland, White Lake, West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Wixom, Walled Lake, Wolverine Lake) would be a "natural progression" for him in 2010, when Cassis is term-limited.

State senators are limited to serving no more than two four-year terms, and are currently paid \$79,650 annually.

Kowall, chairwoman of the county commission's GOP caucus, also serves as vice chair of the commission's Finance Committee and as a member of the General Government Committee and Jail Overcrowding Task Force.

She obtained her Associate's Degree in Dental Hygiene from the University of Detroit, and practiced dental hygiene from 1974 until 1989. She is part-owner, designer, and a sales representative for Accurate Woodworking of Waterford Township.

Kowall is the wife of former state representative and current White Lake Township Supervisor Mike Kowall.

---

[Kirk Pinho is a staff writer for the Spinal Column Newsweekly](#)



powered by  
Linear Publishing  
copyright 1999 - 2007