

MORNING BRIEFING

Monroe fills top probation post

Albany County's deputy probation director has been appointed head of Monroe County's probation department, filling a nearly yearlong void in the department. Robert Burns, 40, an Albany County native who has worked in that county's probation department for 16 years, will take over the Monroe post next month. The department's former director, Robert Dunning, was reassigned last May, becoming coordinator of alternatives to incarceration. The change followed Dunning's lawsuit against the county, which he filed over a \$12,000 pay cut. The pay cut was instituted during a departmental reorganization.

Joseph Martucci, a senior probation supervisor, is being acting probation administrator. He will return to his former position, said Clayton Osborne, the county's director of operations.

Burns' salary will be \$53,184, a raise of about \$16,000, according to *The Times Union* of Albany. He was offered the position last week and was selected out of a final field of four applicants, Osborne said.

City schools budget presentation postponed

Schools Superintendent Peter J. McWalters has postponed plans to present his recommended budget to the Rochester school board.

McWalters originally was scheduled to make the presentation tonight at a regular board meeting, but pushed back the date to April 29 because of state-budget delays and negotiations between the City School District and City Council.

His presentation will be part of a board study session that begins at 7 p.m.

The board plans to begin a series of public hearings on the budget proposal in early May.

Penn Yan man arrested on charge of larceny

DUNDEE — A man was arrested yesterday in this Yates County village for allegedly duping a Newark man into giving him \$77,000 for half-ownership of Dundee Raceway Park.

Steven M. Wetmore, of 109 Burns Terrace, Penn Yan, was being held last night in the Yates County Jail on \$5,000 bail, according to a Yates County sheriff's statement.

Wetmore was arraigned before Dundee Village Justice Cleland Allen on a charge of second-degree grand larceny, a Class C felony. He was accused of using "false and fraudulent misrepresentation" in promising half-ownership of the auto-racing track to a Newark man in exchange for \$77,000.

The victim's name was not released last night.

Clarification

State Department of Environmental Conservation officials say it will be probably five years or more before the start of a cleanup of the hazardous-waste dump at the end of Dearcop Drive and Varian Lane in Gates. The timing of the cleanup was mischaracterized in a story in yesterday's *Democrat and Chronicle*.

Correction

Because of incorrect information provided to *Our Towns*, an incorrect date for a church music celebration at the Irondequoit United Church of Christ appeared in yesterday's editions. The event is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. tomorrow at the church, 644 Titus Ave.

Redistricting plan for city changes little

Democrat and Chronicle

The boundaries of Rochester's four City Council districts will remain the same over the next decade except for one election district downtown, according to proposed legislation released yesterday.

The district that would change is the Grove Place neighborhood, which would shift from the Northeast to the East council district under the proposed plan. There are 304 residents living in that area.

"To comply with the spirit of the law, we felt this one change was necessary," said City Council President John G. Curran.

The area that would shift districts is bounded by the Inner Loop on the north and east, by Chestnut Street and Liberty Pole Way on the west and by East Avenue to the south.

Voting district lines must be redrawn after every census to reflect the "one person, one vote" rule. Between 1980 and 1990, Rochester's population dropped to 231,636, a decrease of 10,105 residents.

Based on the new population figure, each council district should contain about 57,909 people. Federal law requires that districts not vary by more than 3 percent from that "ideal" number.

A public hearing on the redistricting plan will be held April 25 at 5 p.m. in council chambers at City Hall. The full council will vote on the legislation at its meeting on April 30.

Proposed radio-tower plan draws static from residents

Democrat and Chronicle

CANANDAIGUA — Aesthetics are being weighed against economic development as the Canandaigua Town Planning Board considers a local radio station's request to build four 198-foot transmission towers in the midst of cropland.

"Nobody wants radio towers too close to them," says farmer Richard Outhouse, who farms on three sides of the 426-foot-wide strip where WCGR-AM wants to build towers which would allow it to broadcast 24 hours daily.

Jim Herendeen, general manager of WCGR, says the towers would allow the AM station to expand into an around-the-clock format from its current sunrise-to-sunset operation.

The proposed building site, on Buffalo Street Extension and about three-quarters of a mile northeast of the street's intersection with routes 5 and 20, is in an area zoned for agricultural and residential use.

The towers would double on-air time, increase the station's wattage from 250 watts to 1,000 watts and expand its listening radius from 10 miles to 30 miles, Herendeen said.

The station, located on Townline Road in the town of Canandaigua, is owned by Dell Broadcasting Inc. of Canandaigua.

A public hearing on the proposal, which dates to 1988, is scheduled to begin at 8:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Canandaigua Town Hall, 2531 Route 332.

2 UR professors win fellowships

Democrat and Chronicle

Two faculty members from the University of Rochester's School of Arts and Science are among 143 national winners of 1991 Guggenheim fellowships.

Michael Ann Holly, associate professor and chairwoman of the Department of Art and Art History, and Kenneth Gross, associate professor in the Department of English, were among those chosen from a pool of 3,092 applicants nationally. This year's awards totaled \$3.79 million.

Holly will use her fellowship to write a book titled *Past Looking*. It will be a study of several themes, including the role of linear perspective in the creation of Renaissance art history and the development of iconology as a means of interpreting art.

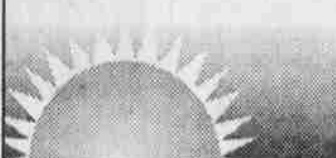
Gross will work on a book tentatively titled *Shakespeare and the Logic of Slander*. His research will focus on Renaissance writings concerned with slander, defamation and libel, how the texts describe the subjects and what they say about censorship.

GOOD MORNING

"We would like to pay tribute to our neighbor, Eleanor Schwind, who has unselfishly cared for my husband and I during our illness and took us in during the ice storm."

— Fran and Ruth Shaughnessy
131 Willowbrook Road
Greece

If you would like to salute someone for a good deed, call the Good Morning line, 258-2400.



Gantt, GOP talk county districts

FROM PAGE 1B

But the Democratic plan suffered another blow yesterday when the county Conservative Party came out against it, saying it unnecessarily carved up the city and towns and is a step toward a metropolitan form

of government.

County Conservative Chairman Thomas D. Cook said he believed ignoring the longstanding borders would diminish the representation of people in those areas.

"The town of Brighton, the town of Penfield, the city of Rochester have different problems, different hopes, different desires, and they need someone to advance those things," Cook said. "If you have the

undivided attention of a representative, I think that government will do much better."

"I don't think it's necessarily bad to have local representatives. I don't think it's necessarily bad to be parochial because you represent the interests of your community."

Democratic leaders argue that blended districts would reduce parochialism by forcing legislators to think on a communitywide basis.

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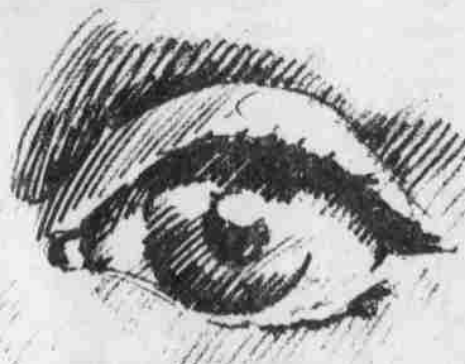
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City Council OKs redistrict plan

A slightly revised redistricting plan for the four Rochester City Council districts was unanimously approved last night by the City Council.

The new district lines are essentially the same as the old ones, with the exception of a small area of downtown, which is being moved from the Northeast to the East District. Changing that area, which includes the Grove Place neighborhood, will affect 304 people.

The council is required to set new district lines after each census. Based on the city's new population figure of 231,634, each of the four council districts should contain 57,909 people.

The number of people in each district may vary from that "ideal" number by no more than 3 percent.

Redrawing the district lines sets the stage for the district council races this year. All of the incumbent district council members are expected to seek re-election except for Councilman F. Glenn King of the Northeast District, who is retiring at the end of the year.

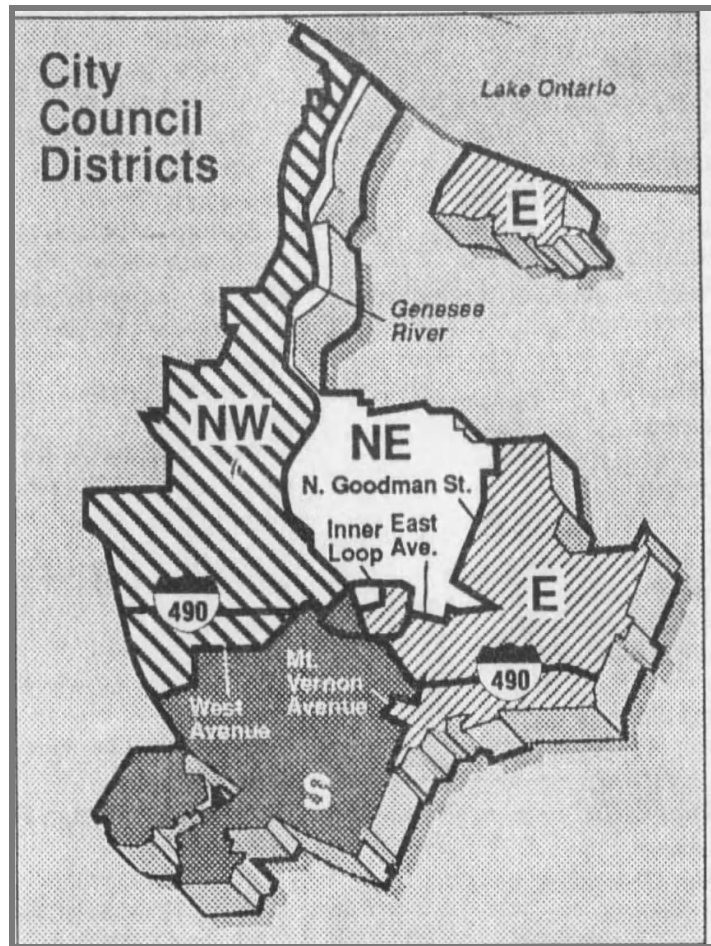
D and C 1 May 1991, p. 1B



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Thu, Sep 8, 2022



D and C, 30 October 1991, p. 8S



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OVERVIEW

City challenge: Costs up, tax base down

BY STAFF WRITERS
JEFFREY BLACKWELL and
BREEA WILLINGHAM

The City School District and Rochester City Council are facing parallel challenges as the cost of providing services increases while traditional revenue streams become increasingly unstable.

The slowing economy, the terrorist attacks on the World

Trade Center and the state's inability to pass a supplemental budget will have an effect on state and local tax revenue. These issues could force legislators to make difficult choices about programs, projects and spending priorities in the coming years.

In November, voters will pick five of the nine members of City Council and three of seven representatives to the school board. The winners will help direct

policy and spend millions of public dollars over the next four years.

City Council and the administration are facing uncertain financial times.

The tax base is shrinking and the state may not be able to plug gaps in the city budget as it did last year with an infusion of \$15 million.

"Since Sept. 11, everything has changed and we cannot anticipate aid increases from the state

because of the needs of New York City, and the loss of revenue coming to the state because of the attack," said City Council President Lois Giess.

Council also is facing the challenge of wading through a new zoning ordinance later this year and into next year that will change land-use regulations in the city.

The biggest challenge facing the Rochester Board of Education this school year is

operating on limited resources because of the state's bare-bones budget. School administrators and the board will probably be working with at least \$21 million less in state funding than what was budgeted in the 2001-02 school budget.

Board president Bolgen Vargas said an ongoing challenge the board faces is providing resources for students and teachers. The board also has to look for ways to help students

reach the new Regents standards. Beginning with this freshman class, all students will be required to graduate with a Regents diploma.

In general, the board needs to get a better handle on financial issues and improve the communication between board members and the administration, said Shirley Thompson, chairwoman of the Board's Quality Assurance for Student Achievement Committee. □

CITY COUNCIL

Big field gives voters a range of choices

Democratic incumbents challenged by two GOP teams and the Green Party.

BY STAFF WRITER
JEFFREY BLACKWELL

City voters will have the task of choosing five at-large members this year to City Council from a diverse field of 14 candidates.

City Hall is the fortress of the Democratic Party in Monroe County. A Republican last served on City Council in 1987. A member of the GOP has not served as an at-large council member since 1976 or as mayor since 1973.

The race is among five incumbent Democrats, two separate teams of Republicans and four challengers from the Green Party. The winners will serve a four-year term.

The Democrats

Combined, the length of legislative service among the members of the Democratic slate is nearly 50 years. One has served four terms. Another is seeking a fourth. All have served at least one.

The incumbents say they, along with their four other colleagues, legislate in an atmosphere of cooperation where members are not afraid to voice their opinions or opposition. Republican and Green Party challengers say the one-party council lacks diversity of ideas.

"I think the system works very well and the proof is what you see: the real record of achievement, the real demonstrable progress, and the real sense of opportunity that remains before us," said Councilman Wade Norwood, who is seeking a fourth term.

Brian Curran, 48, who lives in the 19th Ward, is seeking his third term. He is a labor attorney with the Public Employees Federation.

Curran targets fiscal issues and the city's efforts to create jobs through business incentives as his primary issues. He is in the minority on some issues, such as opposing the city's aggressive demolition policy and the funding of programs such as the Easy Rider shuttle service and annual music festival, two of Mayor William A. Johnson Jr.'s pet projects.

"I think I am the most outspoken person on the council in terms of the city's annual budget process, suggesting that we should reduce spending on low priorities so we will be able to have enough funds to pay for things that are higher priority," he said.

Curran said the city should concentrate resources on basic services and economic development projects that create quality jobs for city residents. He said it is up to the council to make sure the administration stays on course.

"The citizens of Rochester are low- and moderate-income working people for the most part, so the question of what we do with their money becomes a very important issue to us," he said.



For more election information, click on "Election 2001" at: DemocratandChronicle.com

Nancy K. Griswold, 55, a resident of Browncroft, is seeking her second term in office. Griswold is director of Catholic Family Services' STAR (Support To Aged Residents) program. She is also on the board of the county's Council for Elders.

Griswold said one of the city's top priorities should be to stabilize the tax base by encouraging the development of high-end and market-rate housing.

"I will work to make sure we fill vacant properties," she said. "We need to work to encourage people to move into the city."

Griswold said she had to learn the value of fiscal responsibility in her first term in office. She said it is now a top priority. But she said she would continue to support funding for city recreation centers, libraries and neighborhood centers.

"We need to do more to help the elderly stay in the city," she said. "We need to make sure they are safe, that neighbors look in on them and that PAC-TAC is patrolling the street."

Tim O. Mains, 53, who lives in the South Wedge, is seeking his fifth term in office. He is the council's senior member and chairman of its Jobs, Finance and Governance Committee, the body responsible for reviewing the annual budget.

Mains is a counselor at Greece Olympia High School. He is on the boards of directors of Action for a Better Community, Rochester Economics Development Corp., and National League of Cities Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Local Officials organization.

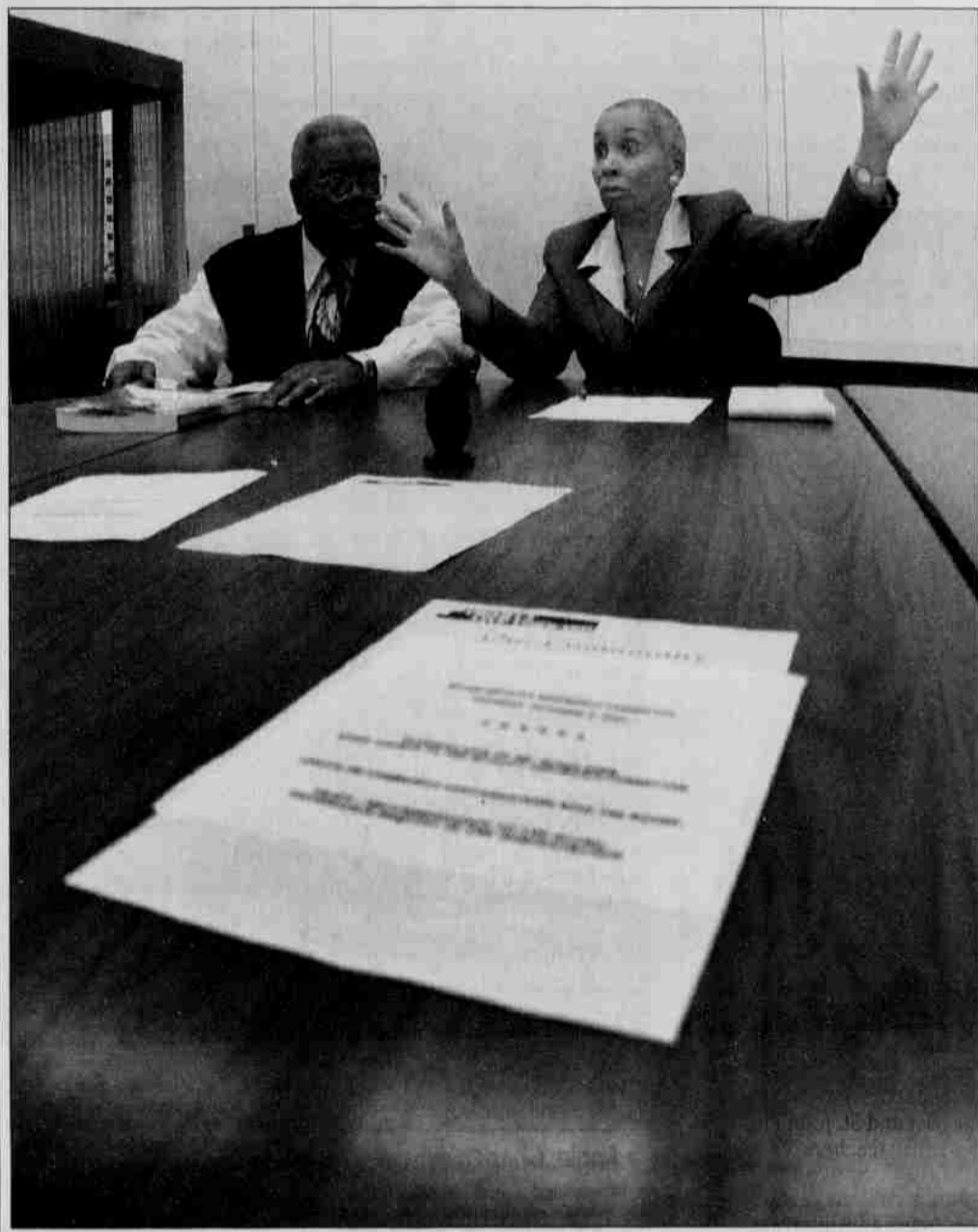
"I'm campaigning on several things, but the head of the hit parade is maintaining the city's fiscal viability," he said.

Other issues central to his campaign are housing and economic development. Mains said he would push, as he has in the past, for the development of new housing downtown and throughout the city. He said he would also work to create quality jobs by supporting job training and economic incentives for companies creating well-paying jobs for city residents.

Wade Norwood, 36, a resident of the 19th Ward, is legislative analyst for Assemblyman David Gantt, D-Rochester, and is seeking his fourth term.

Norwood is chairman of council's Housing and Community Development Committee. Creating fair and affordable housing and revitalizing neighborhoods are his top priorities, he said. Supporting and promoting programs for new housing, new commercial development and restoration of

CIVICS LESSON



CARLOS ORTIZ, staff photographer

Dr. Dwight Cook from the Rochester Board of Education, left, and Dr. Susan R. Dyer, the chief academic officer, make their points Tuesday during a meeting of the board's Quality Assurance Committee.

What you should know about council, school board

Board of Education

Duties: The school board is charged with setting district policy, appointing and evaluating the superintendent and hiring the most district staff. Board members serve four-year terms.

District budget: \$516.2 million for 2001-02.

Board members: The board comprises seven individuals. Three are up for election this year.

Political makeup: All board members are Democrats. The last time a Republican served on the board was in 1982.

Salary: \$15,000 annually; \$17,500 for the board president.

Meetings: The board meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the district office, 131 W. Broad St. Anyone wishing to address the board must call ahead to be put on the agenda.

Phone: 262-8525 or 262-8339.
E-mail: rcsd@rcsd-k12.org.
Web site: www.rochester.k12.ny.us.

City Council

Duties: Council sets fiscal policies, approves all spending, regulates land use and passes legislation. One of council's main functions is to enact the annual budget. Members serve four-year terms.

City budget: \$349.8 million for 2001-02.

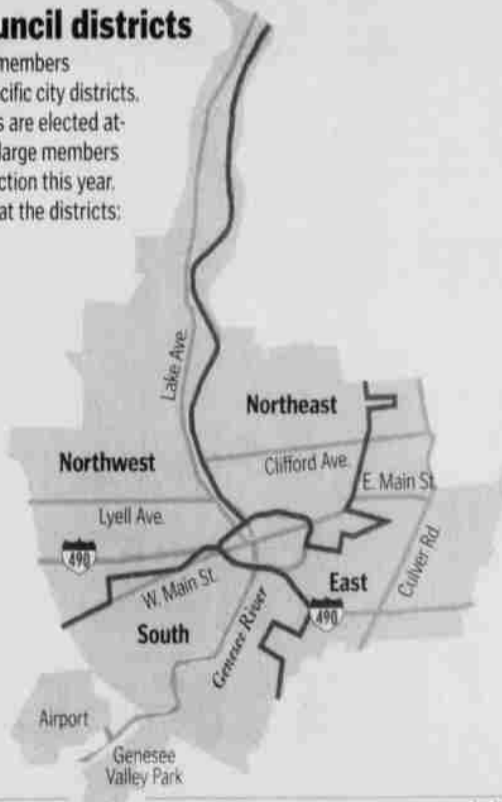
Council members: Council comprises nine individuals — four represent regions of the city and five are at-large members. The five at-large members are up for election this year.

Political makeup: All council members are Democrats. The last time a Republican served on council was in 1987.

Salary: \$27,182 annually.
Meetings: Council meets at 7 p.m. one Tuesday each month at City Hall, 30 Church St. Citizens can address council

City council districts

Four council members represent specific city districts. Five members are elected at-large. The at-large members are up for election this year. Here's a look at the districts:



Staff graphic

on any issue beginning at 7 p.m. The actual council meeting begins at 8 p.m. Citizens must call 428-6519 before 6 p.m. of the council meeting day to address council.
Phone: 428-7538.
E-mail: rcouncil@mcls.rochester.lib.ny.us.
Web site: www.cityofrochester.gov

Online resources

- www.co.monroe.ny.us/elections/
- www.co.genesee.ny.us/dpt/elections/
- www.co.livingston.state.ny.us/election.htm
- www.co.ontario.ny.us/elections/
- <http://orleansny.com/election.htm>
- www.dnet.org/ny
- www.ggw.org/lwv
- www.elections.state.ny.us

About this series

This report is part of the *Democrat and Chronicle's* ongoing coverage of the campaign:

- Monday:** Genesee County.
- Tuesday:** Livingston County.
- Wednesday:** Ontario County.
- Thursday:** Orleans County.
- Friday:** Wayne County.
- Next Saturday:** Monroe County Legislature.

Oct. 27: Judicial races. Candidate profiles for Rochester mayor, Monroe County sheriff and Monroe County clerk will appear later this month.

Nov. 4: Voter Guide. To share ideas and comments, contact Rick Armon, public affairs editor.
Phone: 258-2275.
Fax: 258-2237.
Mail: Democrat and Chronicle, 55 Exchange Blvd., Rochester, NY 14614-2001.
E-mail: ramon@democratandchronicle.com

SCHOOL BOARD

Election focus: student, teacher needs

BY STAFF WRITER
BREEA WILLINGHAM

The Rochester Board of Education has been filled with Democrats for nearly 30 years, but three Republicans and a Green Party candidate are hoping to break that impressive streak this year.

Seven candidates, including incumbent Democrats Rob Brown and Darryl Porter, are competing for three of the seven seats on the board.

The Republican candidates are running as a slate and have developed a common platform, which includes their view that political diversity is needed on the board.

"We want to be able to give people a choice," said Peter Shaw, who is teamed with fellow Republicans Eugene Van Voorhis and Delores Forest. "We want to bring in ideas that haven't been talked about to move the board along."

David Hursh, the Green candidate and associate professor of education at the University of Rochester, also believes he will bring critical thinking to the board.

In addition to Brown, the board vice president, and Porter, who has been on the board for eight years, the Democratic ticket includes James Bowers, a political science professor at St. John Fisher College. Board member Willa Powell decided not to defend her seat after the Monroe County Democratic Committee didn't support her candidacy.

The Democrats

Brown, 56, an attorney and partner with Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson law firm, said he is committed to bringing social and health services to all students so everyone is equally prepared for learning.

The problems facing the City School District are environmental, not instructional, Brown said. Some students have social and learning deficiencies because of the abject poverty in which they live, he said.

"The problem is many children come in so far behind the eight ball ... that no instructional program can overcome" the problem, said Brown, who lives in the Park Avenue neighborhood.

Porter's priority is to make sure the district's 600 new teachers have the proper mentoring resources so they don't leave after their first year in the profession.

Another one of Porter's goals is to make the parents and citizens more aware of what is going on in the district and what they can do to make children more successful.

Porter, 53, who is seeking his third term on the board, is also pledging to make sure students and the community understand the district's new Code of Conduct implemented last month; and he wants the district to do a better job of tracking what standards students are and aren't meeting.

"Nobody's monitoring that. We can't wait until kids graduate to find out what they don't

YOUR GUIDE TO THE ELECTIONS

ROCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD



CARLOS ORTIZ, staff photographer

Dr. Dwight Cook and Dr. Susan R. Dyer participate in a meeting of the board's Quality Assurance Committee.

School Democrats face opposition

BY STAFF WRITER
BREEA WILLINGHAM

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The Republican candidates are running as a slate and have developed a common platform, which includes their view that political diversity is needed on the board.

The Green candidate believes he would bring critical thinking to the board.

Here's a look at the candidates:

■ Democrat Rob Brown, 56, an attorney and partner with Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor & Wilson law firm, said he is committed to bringing social and health services to all students so everyone is equally prepared for learning. He lives in the Park Avenue neighborhood.

■ Democrat Darryl Porter, 53, who works in Eastman Kodak Co.'s recovery department, said his priority is to make sure the district's 600 new teachers have the proper mentoring resources so they don't leave after their first year in the profession. He lives in the 14621 neighborhood.

■ Democrat James Bowers, 46, who lives in the Northland-Lyceum neighborhood, said he believes schools should represent the racial, ethnic and socioeconomic integration of the city; education should be centered on students and teachers,

not administrators; and test scores should not be a sole indicator of student achievement. He is a political science professor at St. John Fisher College.

■ Republicans Peter Shaw, Eugene Van Voorhis and Delores Forest are running as a slate and have published a common platform.

Forest, 32, is a manager at Pactiv Corp. and lives in the Northeast neighborhood. Shaw, 39, lives in the Northeast neighborhood and is coordinator of the Urban League of Rochester's juvenile mentoring program. Van Voorhis, 67, lives in the Upper Falls neighborhood and is an attorney with the Harris, Chesworth & O'Brien law firm.

The Republican candidates said Rochester's educational system needs a serious overhaul because it spends a half-billion dollars on students, and yet

three-quarters can't pass minimum state standards in English or math.

They also believe the school day should be extended to 5 p.m., classes should be held on Saturday and summer vacation should be shortened. The longer school day would allow for significant changes to the curriculum; for example, the addition of intramural sports programs.

■ David Hursh, 53, the Green candidate, is an associate professor of education at the University of Rochester. He lives in the 19th Ward. He said one of his major issues is what he calls the unfair criticism that teachers face for not meeting state standards. He said teachers tend to oversimplify the curriculum because they receive a lot of pressure from administrators to have their students meet standards. □

ROCHESTER COUNCIL

14 seeking 5 seats on City Council

BY STAFF WRITER
JEFFREY BLACKWELL

City voters will have the task this year of choosing five at-large members to City Council from a diverse field of 14 candidates.

City Hall is the fortress of the Democratic Party in Monroe County.

A Republican last served on the nine-member City Council in 1987. A member of the GOP has not served as an at-large council member since 1976 or as mayor since 1973. The race is among five incumbent Democrats, five Republicans and four challengers from the Green Party. The winners will serve a four-year term.

The incumbents say they, along with their four other colleagues, legislate in an atmosphere of cooperation where members are not afraid to voice their opinions or opposition. Republican and Green Party challengers say the one-party council lacks a diversity of ideas.

Here's a look at the candidates:

■ Green Party candidate Bonnie G. Cannan, 56, lives in the 14621 neighborhood. She is a social worker who counsels people with disabilities at Monroe Developmental Disabilities. She said addressing the problem of predatory lending would be her first priority.

■ Democrat Brian Curran, 48, who lives in the 19th Ward, is seeking his third term. He is a labor attorney with the Public Employees Federation. Curran cites fiscal issues and the city's efforts to create jobs through business incentives as his primary issues.

■ Democrat Nancy K. Griswold, 55, a resident of the Browncroft area, is seeking her second term. She is director of Catholic Family Services' Support To Aged Residents program. Griswold said one of the city's top priorities should be to stabilize the tax base by encouraging development of high-end and market-rate housing.

■ Green Party candidate Jesse J. Lenney, 26, a resident of the 14621 neighborhood, is a manufacturing engineer for Xerox Corp. Lenney said he is in the race to put a voice behind issues that are not being discussed by the major political parties, such as the merit of providing economic development incentives to large corporations.

■ Democrat Tim O. Mains, 53, who lives in the South Wedge, is seeking his fifth term. He is a counselor at Greece Olympia High School. He said fiscal issues are his top priority. Mains said he would push for the development of new housing.

■ Republican Michael McManus, 46, who lives in the Maplewood neighborhood, is a retired federal employee who served in the Air Force for 10 years, and for the past 14 years

as a claims representative for the Social Security Administration. He and Marion Miles are running on a similar platform of reinstating a city manager, cutting back the county's plan to expand the Seneca Park Zoo and increasing police presence on the street and resources in the battle against drugs.

■ Green Party candidate Susan E. Mihalyi, 46, a South Wedge resident, is a private consultant to nonprofit organizations. Mihalyi said she would work to require landlords to test for lead, for the city to inspect homes for lead and to create a registry of homes cleared of lead.

■ Republican Marion L. Miles, 70, of the Maplewood area, is a retired postal worker. She said her main concern is the sour relationship between the city and county. She said she would push the city to hire a city manager and cull the powers of the mayor. She and McManus were not endorsed by the Republican Party.

■ Democrat Wade Norwood, 36, a resident of the 19th Ward, is legislative analyst for Assemblyman David Gantt, D-Rochester, and is seeking his fourth term. Creating fair and affordable housing and revitalizing neighborhoods are his top priorities, he said.

■ Green Party candidate Ronald R. Ring, 57, who lives in the Edgerton area, said he has a part-time job cleaning houses. His priorities include support for the poor, cutting the national defense budget and changing the focus of the drug policy. He said he suffers from memory loss and other psychological problems.

■ Democrat Gladys Santiago, 54, lives in the Beechwood area and is seeking her second full term. She is vice president with the Ibero-American Action League. She has focused many of her efforts on the redevelopment of Hispanic neighborhoods and ensuring city government is accessible to Spanish-speaking people.

■ Republican Christopher Tillett, 39, lives in the Maplewood area and is a residential real estate appraiser. Tillett said that if the city does not address communitywide problems such as schools and crime which drive people out of the city, the task of stabilizing the tax base would become increasingly difficult.

■ Republican Jerome Wilson, 45, is a Maplewood area resident and a diversity coordinator for Eastman Kodak Co. He said he supports strong neighborhoods, open government and affordable housing.

■ Republican Luis Zamot, 51, who lives in the 19th Ward, is a financial planner with Zamot & Zamot Associates. He said his primary goals include the revitalization of downtown, job creation, supporting the fast-ferry project and representing an alternative political voice on City Council. □

ROCHESTER CITY COURT

Castro has no opposition for judge race

BY STAFF WRITER
LARA BECKER LIU

Melchor E. Castro, 53, is one of four Latinos who currently hold elected office in Monroe County. He is running unopposed for City Court judge.

Castro, a Democrat, said he will continue to work to combat domestic violence.

"I hope to work on ways to make City Court more responsive to the issues surrounding family violence," he said. "In particular, I would like to see more

participation by support personnel from agencies dealing with these issues."

Castro was appointed to City Court in January 1991 and won election to a 10-year term in the fall of the same year. He was an assistant district attorney from

1976 to 1984; an assistant U.S. attorney from 1984 to 1986; and a private-practice lawyer from 1986 to 1990. He was appointed in 1990 to the Crime Victims Board.

The annual salary for the 10-year term is \$113,900. □

Mayor

FROM PAGE 21A

become the city's first Latino mayor and first Republican in the office since 1973.

"This race is about the status quo, and (the mayor) not wanting to change," Perez said.

Perez said the key to stabilizing the city's economy, tax base and fiscal problems is controlling taxes and expenses. He said rising taxes drive out both businesses and homeowners, and that causes property values to fall.

"One of the first things we can control is our spending and our tax rate, so people are not ditching the city," Perez said.

Johnson said the city has problems, but he has a strong record of success. He said he has kept tax increases below 1 or 2 percent a year, reinvigorated parts of downtown and city neighborhoods, and involved residents in the rebirth of the city.

"Yes, we still have problems. ... We still have drug houses, we still have crime," Johnson said. "But I want you to think about how much worse it would have been if we did not do the things we did."

Johnson's proposals to revitalize Charlotte and establish a fast ferry between Rochester and Toronto seek to bring economic prosperity to one part of the city in hopes that those projects will boost sections ravaged by drugs and crime.

He also continues to advocate his theories about regionalism — the idea that municipalities should share resources and services.

Here's a look at some of the key issues:



File photo

Republican Luis Perez, left, will challenge Democratic Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. in Tuesday's election. Johnson is the city's first African-American mayor. Perez hopes to become the city's first Latino mayor.

Economy

The city has tried to promote economic development through several initiatives, Johnson said.

Those include constructing new homes; demolishing vacant properties; focusing on waterfront, downtown and neighborhood commercial development; supporting charter schools; and keeping spending and tax increases to a minimum.

Perez said the city needs to refocus priorities and lower city debt, spending and taxes — to encourage people to remain in the city. He said he would concentrate his economic development efforts downtown.

Both candidates said a fast ferry between Rochester and Toronto would be the most beneficial project for the city.

Crime

Questions about crime in the city have prompted lively exchanges. The homicide rate in Rochester is higher than in Albany, Buffalo and Syracuse. Last year, the total number of homicides committed in the city was 40.

Perez said the city is not giving enough financial support to police and is not focusing enough attention on drugs and crime.

Johnson said the homicide rate isn't as high as it was in 1994. And the city has increased its police budget by about \$15 million and increased the size of the force by 34 police officers.

He said the city has limited resources and must balance spending with other city services.

City School District

Johnson said the city is working with the school district on issues it faces, including its current budget crisis.

To close a possible budget shortfall, the city is allowing the district to tap its cash capital account. But Johnson said funding is a long-term problem and the city is working with the district to stabilize its budget so it does not have to depend on state funding.

Perez said the school district has to control spending, and the city should make sure that the district is focused on providing services for students, parents and teachers. He said he also would work to create a relationship between the district and faith-based organizations that could help the district address problems.

City-county relations

Rocky relations between the city and Monroe County Executive Jack Doyle, a Republican, are a key issue for Perez and Johnson.

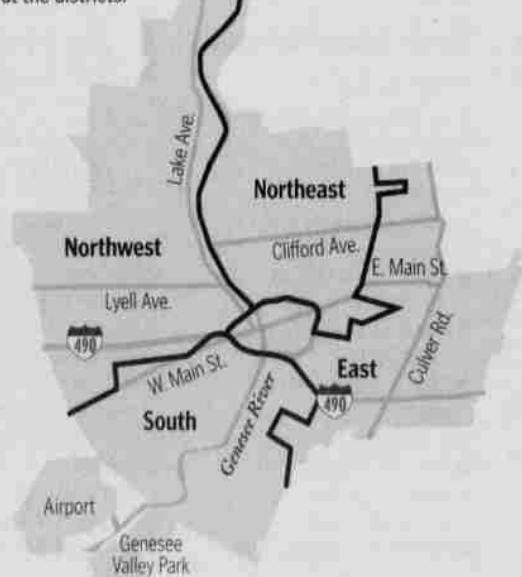
Perez said the rift is having an effect on the city and he would reach out to the county and all area municipalities to mend relationships.

Johnson said the city and county do cooperate on projects and programs, but they do not always agree on issues. The two governments have worked together to build Anthony Square, have cooperated on job and economic development projects, and have contracts for the 911 communication center and the library system.

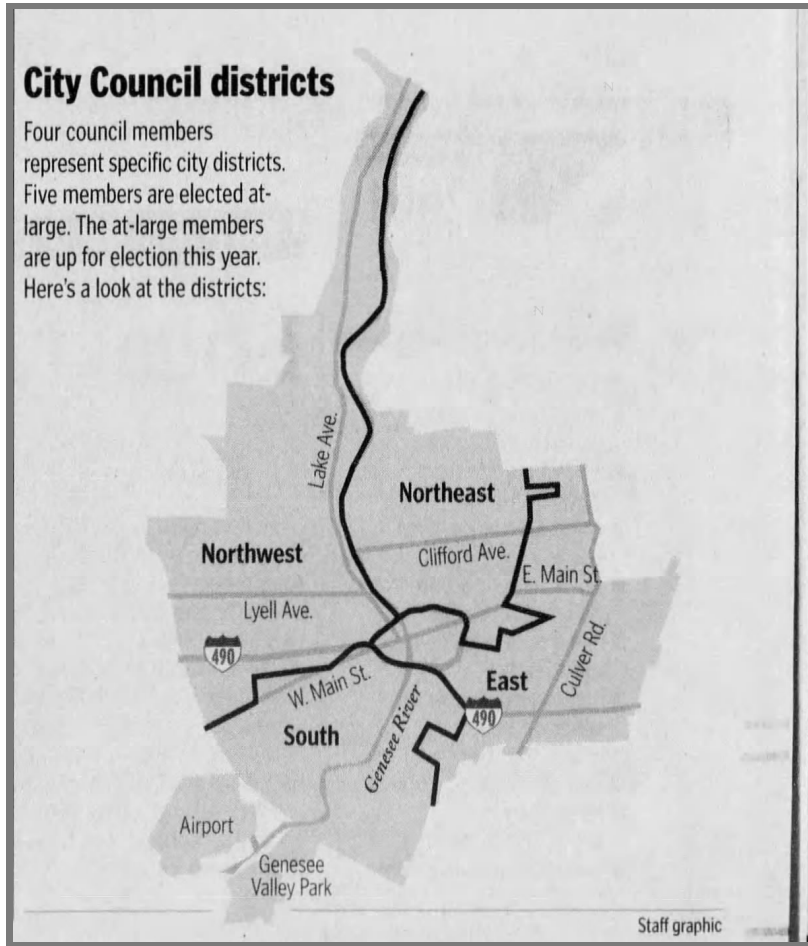
"The real danger would be Mr. Perez putting city issues in the hands of Mr. Doyle, who has not had much sympathy for city problems," Johnson said. □

City Council districts

Four council members represent specific city districts. Five members are elected at-large. The at-large members are up for election this year. Here's a look at the districts:



Staff graphic



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