

# Brotherton

## Incumbent points to record

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

**T**HE MAJOR issues facing the state Legislature are the same ones that concern Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton.

Public health and the congested routes traveled by Oakland County residents are the concerns of Brotherton, incumbent Republican state representative from Farmington, who will seek his seventh two-year term in the 69th District of the Michigan House of Representatives. Brotherton, 53, who has never run unopposed in a general election since he first won the seat in 1974, faces Democratic contender Michael Breshgold, also of Farmington and chairman of the Farmington Democratic Club.

Brotherton decided to run for office again for several reasons, he said.

Several unresolved issues facing the Legislature, and a successful previous term generating passage of two bills he introduced in the House were his main reasons. One involved the regulating of building inspectors and the other a liability bill "designed to try to get bad doctors out of circulation." His announcement to run for re-election was made in January 1988.

His CAMPAIGN strategy is one of letting his record speak for itself. He has no plans to visit the constituency door-to-door for this campaign — rumored to be his last run for the House seat.

He endorsed a recently passed House bill — which he termed "complicated" — revising the state's tax increment financing act, requiring two representatives of the local school district to sit on the TIFA board and placing some constraints on use of TIFA money.

On the issue of roads, Brotherton wants "some mechanism to give local governments a tool to use" with regard to road problems facing Oakland County.

He advocates a "shopping list" combination of impact fees, sales or income taxes imposed by local governments and gasoline and weight tax increases be put to the voters so they could select the most

*'So much is interrelated . . . you have to make sure you have enough power for the residents and the businesses coming into the state.'*

— Wilbur Brotherton  
Republican



effective type of road program.

Health care has long been an interest for Brotherton, who sits on the House of Representatives Public Health Committee — a seat he has held for 12 years — and on related subcommittees for organ transplant policy and a health care data-gathering.

BROTHERTON ALSO serves on the Economic Development and Public Utilities committees and served in the past on the City Government Committee.

The 50-member data-gathering committee was originally proposed three years ago and is studying routine record-keeping for the health care industry statewide so the state can compare costs and quality of care, Brotherton said.

"We want to get a handle on what our costs are," he added. The state committee is based on a working plan in the state of Maryland.

Also related to health care, is Brotherton's continued backing of the state's certificate of need process — a system by which hospitals must prove capital needs before purchases are made in order to be reimbursed.

Although the federal agency that handles local health care requests and screens them for the state has lost its funding, he said the process is still an important one. The burden will now fall solely on the state

health department, Brotherton added.

During his years as representative, Brotherton helped to develop the State Public Health Code, the Hospital Bed Reduction Plan and other health care cost-containment proposals.

Tax reform is also on Brotherton's list. Discussion of adjusting relationships between income, sales and property taxes will come before the Legislature during the coming year, Brotherton said, as well as an adjustment in the tax rate of offset the pending federal tax bill. He said most legislators are "well-committed" to a state tax change.

IN SPEAKING of utilities, Brotherton is concerned with proposed state controls that may result in state financial obligations. "Are we going to tell them to build something they say they don't need," he asked about local utility companies and the nuclear power plant controversy.

"So much is interrelated . . . you have to make sure you have enough power for the residents and the businesses coming into the state. I could see the state getting overzealous in order to support the industrial base.

"We shouldn't tell them what to do and . . . set their policy."

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# Breshgold

## Challenger calls for change

By Casey Hans  
staff writer

**I**T'S AN issue-oriented, door-to-door campaign for Democrat Michael Breshgold.

He's challenging Republican incumbent Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton in this year's race for the 69th District seat in the Michigan House of Representatives.

The 32-year-old Farmington resident and chairman of the Farmington Democratic Club believes area voters will look at issues — for which he carries strong opinions — and will not necessarily vote straight-tickets.

Constituents are "interested in seeing people out there," said Breshgold, who declared his candidacy in May for a campaign in the highly Republican district. "I tell them to look at what I can do for you."

This is Breshgold's second political race; he ran for an Oakland County Board of Commissioners seat in 1982, losing in the primary.

He feels he can bring enthusiasm, involvement and honesty to the House seat. "I have a pretty good knowledge of both business and the political community," he said, adding it is important "that the people know who their representative is and what he does."

BRESHGOLD PLACES Oakland County roads top on the list of needs to be addressed for the district, followed by the rising cost of health care, which is a concern especially for the older population, he said.

A regional sales representative with Key Pharmaceuticals of New Jersey, Breshgold sees firsthand the needs involving various drugs, and dangers involving some generic drugs on the market today.

Setting guidelines for high quality generic drugs would be one of Breshgold's top projects — something he said is needed, especially with cardiac-type drugs to "safeguard the district."

Breshgold called for an expansion of Health Maintenance Organizations to promote preventive health care, and adding more state auditors to place tighter controls on health care cost abuses.

*'I support the governor's increases in higher education. People are relocating to Ann Arbor because of the University of Michigan and the resources it offers.'*

— Michael Breshgold,  
Democrat



Roads are an important factor in the area's quality of life, which, in turn, affects "continued economic development and diversification," something Breshgold feels will be the top issue facing the state Legislature in the coming years.

"It isn't only taxes that businesses look at," he said. "They look at quality of life, and where their employees want to live."

He wants to see some of the tax burden shifted to the state sales tax, calling the Democratic proposal a "fat" plan. "Taxes in other states are higher in comparison," he said.

TAXES ARE not the only issue that lures or removes business and industry to an area. The development of higher education enhances the area from a business point of view, Breshgold said.

In other educational areas, Breshgold does not support having high school seniors take tests before receiving their diplomas, or additional tests for teacher certification.

For students: "Why make them wait 12 years?" he said. They should be allowed to graduate "if they've managed to get through the system each year."

For teachers: "The requirements are already there — I think the requirements have been strengthened at the university level." Breshgold

is a certified Michigan teacher.

On state funding for abortions, Breshgold follows his party's view that "under the Constitution, abortion is legal. I tend to believe it's a woman's choice and the government should not interfere with that choice." By denying state funding, the poor are punished, he said. "The poor as well as the rich should have the right."

"I respect all views," he added. "I just feel abortion is one of many issues facing us today."

He also advocates some type of informational health clinic in local high schools. "If it's done properly, it could be a useful tool in fighting teenage pregnancies," he said.

BRESHGOLD CALLS for streamlining the criminal justice system, placing the financing of all courts in the hands of the state. "It would help out courts which are just overburdened," he said, "and bring uniformity to the judicial system."

He said the juvenile court system could also be reviewed, with possible implementation of sentencing guidelines, but that the ultimate responsibility for halting juvenile crime remains with parents.

Breshgold, a Navy veteran, lives in the Farmington Meadows subdivision. He is married to Wendy Breshgold and has two children. He holds a bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University.

# Booster club seeking cash for fitness room

To help Farmington High's coaches and athletes realize their dream of a new fitness room, the school's Booster Club is sponsoring a drawing.

The fund-raising goal is \$20,000. Tickets may be bought from coaches, students or by calling Dan Waker, drawing coordinator, at 476-6258. Tickets cost \$1 each.

Prizes include a 45-inch wide-screen television, a Technic stereo system, an Ammana microwave, a video recorder and a 10-speed bicycle. Winning tickets will be drawn at half-time of the Falcon varsity football game Saturday, Nov. 1. You

don't have to be present to win.

The new fitness room will encompass an existing three-walled patio near the north hallway and swimming pool. It requires a floor, one wall and a roof. It will provide direct access to both the locker rooms, the gymnasium and the team room.

"We plan to use it as a teaching station — for athletes, gym classes, adaptive physical education, special education, intramural, adult education," said Dave Catherman, football and track coach. "We want to prove its value to the entire school community."

TO ILLUSTRATE the need for the

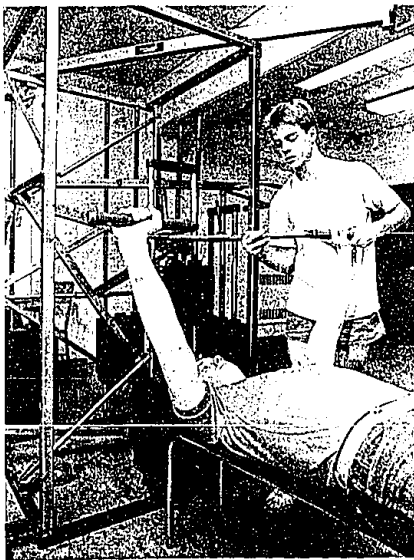
room, Catherman pointed to the football players. "They're working out on free weights in the back half of the wrestling room and on the universal machine and wall pulley in a storage room off the gym."

Besides being separated, the wrestling room isn't available to the football team from November to March and the storage room isn't large enough for more than 10 players at a time, Catherman said.


Coaches and players have improvised to help overcome these obstacles. "We've been a portable operation. But that's not an ideal situation," Catherman said.

Consolidating fitness equipment will enable coaches to better tailor and supervise personalized conditioning programs. "In the long term, it'll provide more of an opportunity for the players to reach their fitness goals," Catherman said.

The new fitness room is expected to be ready for use by Thanksgiving. So far, \$2,500 has been raised toward its construction. Fund-raisers have included a liftathon, a rummage sale and student donations.




RANDY BORST/staff photographer  
Football players Jeff Stitzel (left) and Kevin Stewart work out in the current fitness room at Farmington High.



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**Farmington Observer**  
(USPS 187-840)

Published every Monday and Thursday by Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 35251 Schoharati, Livonia, MI 48150. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, MI 48151. Address all mail (subscription, change of address, Form 3526) to P.O. Box 2428, Livonia, MI 48151. Telephone 591-0500.

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