

# Primary votes pick delegates

By TIM RICHARD

Both major parties will hold a presidential preference primary next Tuesday. Beyond that, any resemblance between the Republican and Democratic systems is pure coincidence.

The major parties have such different internal problems and traditions of operation that the Michigan Legislature wrote two entirely different systems into the primary law.

In each case the presidential candidate is nominated by a national convention. The

Democratic meeting July 12 in New York City the GOP Aug. 18 in Kansas City, Mo. While Republican voters Tuesday will pull levers for Gerald Ford or Ronald Reagan and Democrats for Jimmy Carter, Morris Udall or others, they will actually have their votes translated into convention delegate seats. Put simply, here is what will happen.

## DEM CRATS

Under a new law Democrats won't pick their precinct delegates at the presidential primaries this year. Precinct delegates will be elected in the August general primary.

Three-fourths of Michigan's 133 votes at the Democratic National Convention will be apportioned to the 19 congressional districts.

How many delegates a congressional district gets depends on an elaborate formula. One factor is the party vote for president in 1972; another factor is the number of paid-up Democratic Party memberships in the district 60 days before the primary—that is, in mid-March.

Congressional district caucuses will apportion the seats on the basis of how the presidential candidates ran May 18. Meanwhile, the Democratic State Central Committee will fill the other one-fourth of the delegation when it meets June 12.

## REPUBLICAN

Republican voters will select not only their presidential preferences but also their precinct delegates May 18. Candidates for precinct delegates may run committed to Ford or Reagan or uncommitted. Each of the 19 congressional districts will have three national convention delegates, regardless of party strength in the district.

A presidential candidate who gets 25 per cent of the vote in a district is guaranteed one delegate, 50 per cent, two delegates, 75 per cent, all three delegates. This process accounts for a total of 57 Michigan delegates.

Meanwhile, there will be 18 delegates elected at-large. Any candidate getting at least five per cent of the state-wide vote is guaranteed some strength in the at-large delegation.

On May 27 at 8 p.m., county and congressional district conventions will meet all across the state. Attending these local conventions will be the precinct delegates elected May 18. These conventions will elect delegates to a state convention to be held in Grand Rapids June 11-12.

At the state convention, delegates will meet in congressional district caucuses to pick their three national convention delegates. Then the entire state convention

will pick the at-large delegation.

IF THESE PROCEDURES strike you as elaborate and confusing, consider this elemental fact about the presidential selection process.

The presidential nominee is not the candidate of the people; he is the candidate of a political party.

The party structure has the responsibility of picking the candidate. And so what the voter registers in May 18 in Michigan is really an open party system of picking delegates.

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## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

### SPRUING UP

Birmingham spent most of this week getting ready for the first visit of a president of the United States that anyone could remember.

Gerald Ford was scheduled to make a speech and shake hands of people on Wednesday afternoon at Oak Park. Trees were trimmed, grass was cut and signs were removed as the city busied itself for a presidential visit.

As City Manager Robert Kenning said, "It's like when your mother comes to dinner. You clean the bathroom."

### MENT-WHITE HOUSE

Troy's Somerset Inn too was bustling with activity this week as Ford's campaign staff moved in to prepare for the president's visit. The inn was nearly booked before the president's visit was slated, so campaign workers were scattered throughout Somerset and were working from cramped quarters. Perhaps most nervous of all was Somerset's food and beverage director, Donald Clark, who personally cooked the president's dinner.

### MICHIGAN WEEK PARADE

The greater West Bloomfield area's annual Michigan Week parade will get under way at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Orchard Lake City Hall, Orchard Lake and Long Lake roads, and will travel southward to West Bloomfield High School.

Before the parade, an awards ceremony will be held at West Bloomfield Township Hall, 4400 Orchard Lake Road, to announce winners of the bi-centennial writing contest.

Orchard Lake Road will be closed from Long Lake Road to Maple from 10 a.m. to noon according to Township Police Chief Alfred McGee.

### BICYCLING BUFFS

Bicycling buffs from throughout greater Detroit will converge on the Oakland University campus May 23 for the fourth annual Cyclethon. Proceeds from the Sunday event will be shared by Southfield-based Michigan Heart Association and the Metropolitan Detroit Council of American Youth Hostels. Stated to be on hand are former Tiger great Hal Newhouser, Lions mart Larry Hand, Mr. Belvedere and Sir Graves (Hastley).

### TAXES GOING UP

The City of Farmington Council voted this week to increase the city tax levy by 1.25 mills because of increased expenses in the 1976-77 budget year. The proposed millage would increase the local tax rate from 9.75 mills to 11 mills. The council originally was contemplating raising millage to 10.95 but raised that rate after considering expenses.

### TAX HIKE PROPOSED

Residents of Orchard Lake will face a quarter-mill tax hike when tax bills go out July 1 if the council adopts its proposed \$438,514 budget.

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