

Voters flock to register but November tally dubious

A record number of voters are registered in the Hills and the City for the presidential election. But both city clerks don't think the increase heralds a larger turnout at the polls in November.

The last day to register to vote in November was Oct. 4. "We have about 1,200 registered voters in Farmington," said Farmington City Clerk Nedra Viane.

"More than 100 people registered over the weekend and on Monday. The line was constant," she said. In 1972, the City had 6,773 registered voters. After the July, 1976 primary, 8,941 voters were registered, according to Mrs. Viane.

Hills City Clerk Floyd Cairns estimated that about 500 persons registered to vote in the Hills over the weekend. "It's not bad, but it usually runs a lot more than that. The voter registration at the Secretary of State's offices helps out," he said.

THE HILLS has about 30,000 voters, according to Cairns.

In 1972, there were 20,000 Hills voters. The cities are expecting from 70 to 80 per cent of their registered voters to go to the polls next month.

"In 1972, 81.22 per cent of our voters came to the polls," Mrs. Viane said. "I think this year's turnout will be high for Farmington. We'll have at least as many voters as the last election," she said.

In the Hills, 89 per cent of the voters made it to the polls in 1972.

"It's hard to say how many will vote this year," Cairns said. "It'll be high—between 75 per cent to 80 per cent. It won't reach 89 per cent, this time, though. It'll be people who were more interested in the election last time," he said.

The presidential election draws a greater percentage of the people to the polls than an off-year election. "There's always more voters in a presidential election," said Mrs. Viane. "I would guess probably 50 per cent more voters come out for a presidential election."

Cairns agreed with Mrs. Viane. "There were 19 per cent of the voters in the primary. That wasn't very big," Cairns said. "The number of voters in a city election isn't much larger."

"The city election has a lower turnout because it's a non-partisan election," Cairns believes. "The parties don't get out and work for a particular person."

More precincts and more voting machines will be part of this year's presidential competition in the two cities. With more precincts comes an increase in precinct workers and an increase in cost, both clerks said.

"We have extra precincts and more machines, this time," Mrs. Viane said. That alone will raise the cost of the election for the City. "I really can't say how much more it will cost this year. I'll know after the election."

In 1972, the City had five precincts and one counting board, which took care of absentee ballots. This year, there are six precincts and two counting boards in Farmington.

"We'll have about 52 people working in the precincts," she said.

IN 1972, THE HILLS had 18 precincts and four counting boards. In four years, the city has added five precincts, according to Cairns.

"We have four counting boards now," said Cairns. "We're thinking of having eight."

"Last time, we had 2,600 absentee voters. We're expecting more this year because we have sent out over 4,000 absentee ballot applications to people over 60 years old," he said.

The Hills has 128 precinct workers and 48

people who are on counting boards. "The last presidential election cost us roughly \$6,000. I expect it to cost us about \$1,000 more this year. It depends on how many hours of overtime are put in," he said.

The long November ballot evoked a mixed response from the clerks. "It'll take longer to vote," said Mrs. Viane. "The people will be in the voting booths longer. The lines will be longer. It'll take that much longer for us to finish working."

Cairns disagreed, stating that he thought the ballots were shorter this year than in 1972.

"The last time, we had the township officers on the ballot, too," he said.

"It probably won't take any longer to vote this year. I don't foresee any special problems," Cairns said.

Big spender accusation heats up Congress race

By STEVE BARNABY Farmington editor

Republican Congressional candidate James Burdick has lashed out at Democratic opponent U.S. Rep. William Brodhead of Detroit, accusing him of being a big spender of endorsing over-spending in the nation's budget.

Burdick, who is competing for the 17th District seat, says Brodhead has been a "staunch supporter" of higher budget deficits in the 90th Congress.

In voting against six economy measures out of nine proposed, and not even bothering to vote on two others, Brodhead has shown a total lack of awareness of how excessive federal expenditures feed inflation, a lack of concern for those on fixed incomes and a sheer callousness toward all the overtaxed people in the district," says Burdick.

BRODHEAD DENIES the allegations, saying Burdick's accusations are typical Republican election year rhetoric.

Burdick is referring to five per cent across the board cuts in appropriations for the postal system, public works, agriculture, housing and urban development, foreign assistance and appropriations for state justice, commerce and judiciary bills. On each of these bills, Brodhead voted against cutting the appropriations by five per cent.

Those five per cent cuts are introduced on every appropriation as a Republican campaign technique so they can say the Democrats voted against them," said Brodhead.

"They are irresponsible, mean axe approaches to trimming the budget. I think it is more to the point to go after wasteful programs and make cuts," he said.

Burdick claims that support of these cuts would have resulted in cutting the federal budget \$13 billion. Although criticizing Brodhead for his votes, Burdick refused to say which of these bills he would or wouldn't have voted for or against.

Brodhead defended his voting record on economic issues since becoming a Congressman two years ago.

"I've found \$8 billion of waste in the federal budget since coming to Washington," he said. "But the real problem is to define the priorities."

"Of 200 letters he receives a week from constituents, half want the budget cut while the other half want more spent on programs which directly affect that constituent."

Brodhead says he has voted against appropriations for aid to Detroit, a \$71 million defense appropriation request for

the B-1 bomber, and for cuts in the federal government's highway and airport appropriations.

"If a Congressman votes for across-the-board cuts in the budget, it would cut out such things as aid to Israel. I think aid to Israel is essential," said Brodhead.

Brodhead defended the Democratic-dominated Congress by pointing to the Budget Control Act which automatically reduces bills from being passed which can't be financed by the predetermined budget.

Burdick also blasted Brodhead for voting to raise the national debt.

"BECAUSE THE NEW \$700 billion national debt was approved, this means we will be paying \$125.3 million each and every day just for interest without paying one single penny on the debt," said Burdick.

But Brodhead defended the increases, saying it is necessary to keep the economy running.

The national debt has to be raised or the country would go bankrupt," said Brodhead.

Both agree that bureaucratic agencies could be trimmed especially in the areas of education.

"We can cut back drastically on money for education," said Burdick. "Actually, if we cut costs in the middle bureaucracy more money would get down to the students."

Burdick points to a number of federal agencies which have departments with overlapping responsibilities.

"In some cases, we've got eight different departments doing the same thing," he said.

While Brodhead agrees, he says it is up to the executive branch to trim down the bureaucracy.

"We need leadership from the White House. President Nixon did cut back some of the bureaucracy, but Watergate messed that up," said Brodhead.

"President Ford hasn't done anything to cut it," he concluded.



Day dreamer

Could it be that Rae Ann Hook is thinking about the day when she'll be playing just like her favorite rock star? To see what leads girls and boys like Rae to take up the age-old instrument, turn to page 3A. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

Enrollment count final: State aid increased

Parents, administrators and teachers stop quiet speculation on the number of students in Farmington schools.

According to the fourth Friday head count, there are officially 14,813 students in Farmington schools, 201 fewer than in the 1975-76 enrollment.

The 1978 is the number of students which were anticipated by William Prask, district business manager.

There won't be any change in the estimated amount of state funds the district will receive. This doesn't change anything," said Prask, who estimated there would be more than 14,500 students.

"I was right," he said.

The head count is used in determining the amount of state aid the district will receive. Supl. Lewis Schulman said.

Prask calculated that the district would receive \$54 million in state funds. Last year the district received \$47 million in state aid.

Farmington will receive \$20.85 per pupil in state aid. The school spends \$1.67 per child, according to Prask.

The district's total budget for 1978-1979 is \$23.5 million.

The state equalized valuation (SEV), which is one of the factors used to determine the amount of state aid per child has risen from \$92 million in 1975-1976 to \$94 million this year, according to Prask.

The increase in SEV makes the district eligible for less state aid than it would have received under the old valuation.

The district has taken \$3 million out of its budget to balance the expected drop in aid, according to Prask.

There were 22 more students in high schools this year, according to the first Friday count. Farmington high school have 4,172 students attending classes in the 1978-1979 school year.

The 3,564 students counted in the junior high schools represented a loss of 143 pupils from last year.

Elementary school enrollment, down by 72 students, totaled 4,501.

There are 112 severely mentally impaired students in the district.

Boys' Republic contains 59 students and five students are receiving tutoring in their homes.

Farmington Training Center, housed in the Farmington Junior High School building, has 111 students.

Adult education classes, which come under the fourth Friday count, had 77 students. The number of students in adult education can be counted toward the total student population for the purpose of receiving state aid.

The school budget will be the subject of an open hearing at 8 p.m. Oct. 13 in North Farmington High School.

Trustees split vote on equal rights issue

The Farmington School Board passed a student non-discrimination policy in the face of charges by two trustees that the action implies past guilt.

Trustees William Grayson and Dr. Mervyn Ross voted against the policy. Board President Anne Struble, Trustees Michael Shipcew, Emma Makinen and Helen Prutow were in favor of the motion.

Trustee Gary Lichtman was absent. The policy was part of the district's compliance with Title IX funding regulations.

"I see no need for the policy," Grayson said. It implies we're discriminating against students, which we're not."

"THIS IS THE fourth time that the audience and my colleagues will hear my opinion of this policy," Ross said.

"This policy is absolutely contrived, condescending and an order from on high in the bureaucracy—but it stinks."

"I'm embarrassed as a member to have this policy brought to us to scribble in our policy book," he said.

While admitting the board had to comply with the law, Ross added, "No board I've

ever sat on has inferred any discrimination. I feel embarrassed and ashamed of the district and this policy."

Proponents of the policy saw it as necessary and progressive.

"This is a necessary policy," Mrs. Makinen said. "Our school district is making a valiant effort to comply with Title IX regulations. The expansion of the girls' athletic program was part of this compliance. This policy is a continuation of that."

"I'm very much in favor of the policy," said Prask. "It's a good, comprehensive policy. It doesn't speak of guilt."

"It is a necessary policy. I don't see an assumption of guilt in it," Mrs. Struble said.

"IT'S A FORWARD looking policy. It complies with federal guidelines. I don't think complying with guidelines is wrong," she said.

The fourth paragraph policy, in part, states: "It is the policy of the Farmington Board of Education to provide an equal educational opportunity for all students."

"Administration is directed to take such steps as may be necessary to promote equal opportunity without discriminating on the basis of standards such as race, religion, color, creed, sex or national origin."

Local artist exhibits work

A one-woman show by Sara Fox, Farmington painter, will be held at the Farmington Community Center, Oct. 7-15.

Ms. Fox, 27, studied in New York as well as in Michigan. She has been an active member of the Farmington Artists Club over the past two years and has been represented in exhibits in Pontiac and Ann Arbor, as well as in the Farmington Artists Club twice-yearly shows.

This is her second one-woman show. The first was last June at the Farmington Community Library.

Ms. Fox terms herself a "social surrealist." "I basically paint things that involve people versus the struggle of existence."



The Queen, The King

Farmington High School crowned its royalty at its recent homecoming. Casey Ratcliffe (left) took the throne while Rob Patrick (right) took a

break with a swig of water. Rob remained on the playing field to help out his team. (Staff photos)

inside

ON TARGET!

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