

Ross, Cooper debate state senate issues

Tax and rent relief sought by challenger

By JACKIE KLEIN

Quick action to provide property tax relief for middle-income and retired homeowners and rent relief for senior citizens are top priorities, said Doug Ross, Democratic candidate for state senate.

Ross is challenging State Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) in the Aug. 8 primary.

Other state priorities for the next few years, include reducing waste and inefficiency in public programs, rational ways to finance schools and revision or repeal of the single business tax, he said.

The 36-year-old Ross said he would support legislation to preserve wetlands, recreation areas and farm lands. Another priority, Ross said, is mandatory sentences and more prisons to get habitual criminals out of their communities.

Ross, a graduate of University of Michigan, taught civics and economics in junior and senior high schools and was co-founder of the Michigan Citizens Lobby in 1972. He was also director of Michigan Common Cause.

"Through my work with the Oakland County Senior Citizens Alliance," Ross said, "seniors have told me their principal needs."

"ELDERLY PERSONS need programs to prevent apartment rents and property taxes from racing beyond senior citizens' fixed incomes. As part of overall property tax reform, seniors receiving less than \$10,000 a year

should be exempt from all property taxes."

"The state must provide subsidies to keep rents for seniors from rising beyond their incomes."

Ross maintains his concern with the Headlee tax limit proposal, expected to be on the November ballot, is that it fails to deal with rapidly rising property taxes. This, he contends, is the number one problem among suburban homeowners.

"Nothing in the Headlee proposal guarantees any homeowner that his property taxes won't go up just as much next year as they did this year," Ross said.

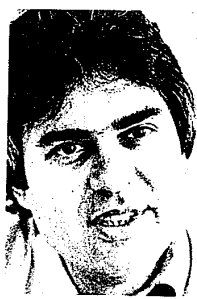
"I will fight for legislation which strictly limits each homeowner's property tax to a set percentage of his income."

The single business tax, Ross said, is a disaster that must be repealed or drastically revised. It places an unfair tax burden on small and medium sized businesses and professions by taxing independent businesses at a higher rate.

"I believe there must be a drastic reduction in the red tape and bureaucratic nitpicking which has made it increasingly difficult for independent businesspersons to operate."

Effective communication with constituents, Ross said, requires that a legislator spend time listening to and speaking with persons in his district. This means doing a fulltime job, he said.

"In contrast to my opponent, I have made the commitment to engage in no outside employment or business activities while I'm in the senate," Ross said. "I have agreed to schedule regular town meetings in each community in the 19th District and to open a district office."



DOUG ROSS

(Editors note) The 15th State Senate District includes the cities of Southfield, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Lathrup Village, Huntington Woods, Milford, Northville, Novi, Oak Park, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom. The townships of Commerce and Royal Oak also are represented in the district.

As director of the Southfield-based Michigan Citizens Lobby, Ross said he was the first in the state to call for laws to attack government waste. But, he said, the legislature has failed to take sufficient action on the proposals.

"A 'sunset law' would require that every state program, agency, tax, and rule or regulation carry a specific date when it's scheduled to end," Ross said. "Before that, the legislature should be required to evaluate the performance of the program."

"If legislators took no further action, the program would automatically end. That's a first step to resolve waste and inefficiency in government."

Ross said Michigan "desperately" needs lobbyist reform and enforceable conflict-of-interest laws. He also said communities should be allowed to build senior citizen housing with no strings attached.

Busting bureaucracy is incumbent's goal

By JACKIE KLEIN

State Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park), who is vying for re-election in District 15, tags elimination of government bureaucracy a top priority in the next four years.

The 48-year-old attorney said he has been the foremost proponent in the state legislature of trimming government fat. In 1977, Cooper called for a one-year moratorium on creating new state boards and commissions.

"I believe that would be a sure-fire way to halt the expensive spread of government bureaucracy," Cooper said. "Let's stop all unnecessary government growth. What we don't create now, we won't have to cut back later."

"That seldom happens anyway."

Cooper, who is seeking his third four-year senate term, is majority floor leader, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee and a member of the Senate Finance Committee. He was a state representative for six years before his election to the senate in 1970.

Another priority measure, Cooper said, is for legislators to make broad amendments to the single business tax. The tax, he said, is unfair and hurts small and medium-income businesses.

"THE IMPETUS for this bill was to promote expansion," Cooper said. "But this is nonsense. There isn't any data which indicates that will happen."

The only thing it will do is allow large industry to get larger," Cooper in 1973 introduced anticrime legislation that provides money for more police officers to patrol neighborhoods and high crime areas. The bill has passed the senate.

The candidate said he supported legislation providing better health care for senior citizens. He favors a reasonable lobbying and conflict-of-interest bill that would be enforceable, he said.

"I support all legislation against spouse abuse and I believe law enforcement officers should be given the power to investigate this major problem," Cooper said.



DANIEL COOPER

Cooper said he is opposed to any tax limitation proposals that would cut vital services in the state and in local communities. He contended ballot questions on tax reform are fiscally irresponsible. A tax limit wouldn't support government priorities, he said.

"I'm also opposed to the state imposing rigid mandates on local government without community input," Cooper said. "I'm disenchanted with bureaucracy which violates civil libertarian concepts."

COOPER CLAIMS he's an arch enemy of parishaid, wire tapping, other invasions of privacy and pressure groups.

He admits he doesn't keep in close contact with his constituents. He said he reaches persons by mailings and is available to appear before groups in his district.

"I've got my hands full trying to do a good job on the senate," he said. "Plenty of citizen groups are in touch with us and express their opinion. I think that's great, but you can't spread yourself thin and expect to be all things to all people."

"I consider myself pragmatic because I deal with facts. I'm also an idealist who believes in the fundamentals of the constitution."

"Zealous people, under the hallmark of good motives, are constantly trying to undermine the constitution."

Cooper said the senate is a hard-working body which isn't beyond mortality. He likes a good fight on the senate floor because that was what he was elected to do, Cooper said. He said he is used to getting blasted when someone thinks he's falling out of line.

Cooper said he'd rather be right and stop worrying about being popular. That posture, he said, has been rammed down his throat.

Residents pan new fire station

Between 25-30 Farmington Hills residents waited through six hours of agenda business last week before they had an opportunity to protest the proposed construction of a new fire station in the northwest area of the city.

About 2 a.m. last Tuesday, the residents of subdivisions surrounding the new station site on Drake Road north of Twelve Mile obtained the council's ears.

Residents are protesting that the neglected to inform homeowners that the four-acre site was targeted for a fire station.

Some of the residents maintained they would rather see the construction of a subdivision than a fire station on the land which is currently part of an apple orchard.

City officials explained that a fire station had been planned for the area as far back as 1971. The Farmington Township Board had targeted a site located on Twelve Mile east of Schroeder, a short distance from the current site. A recent study developed by Public Administration Services recommended the present location in conjunction with recommendations for fire stations in West Bloomfield and Novi, according to City Mgr. George Majors.

Residents expressed dismay that builders and salespersons failed to inform them of the planned station. A suggestion was made to establish a local ordinance mandating that builders inform prospective homeowners of future plans of nearby areas.

"If they had called city hall, we could have told them," Majors said. Residents of Dunbar Oaks on the north, Farmington Green, West on the west, and Colony Park subdivision on the east side of Drake were involved in the protest.

Bond sale set for new court

Construction of the new courthouse for the 47th District Court should get under way this fall, since approval to sell bonds to finance the building was received by the Farmington Building Authority.

The authority was established by the City of Farmington and Farmington Hills for the purpose of constructing the new court.

Farmington City Council authorized the authority to finance the project through a bond sale this week. Bonds for \$625,000 will be sold to finance construction and land acquisition, and interest payments.

The bonds will run for a period of 15 years with the principal maturing in October of each year.

The court's new site will be on Ten Mile west of Power Road. A portion of the Ten Mile Elementary School, closed by the Farmington School District last year, will be purchased by the building authority. The district has agreed to the sale of property and a wing of the school.

Architect John Allen, who designed Ten Mile School, has submitted plans for the renovation of the building for a new court.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

*SECTION 36 Homeowners Association will meet at St. Alexander Hall, on Shawwassee east of Middlebelt, at 8 p.m. July 27. The main topic will be the guidelines for the Citizen's Participation Block Grant funds. Discussed will be the presentation made by the Farmington Hills City Council on July 24.

*AGNES McMENEMY, a registered nurse from Farmington Hills and the director of the Harper Hospital Nursing School, has been elected to a leadership position with the Michigan Heart Association. She will serve on the association's board of trustees. She has served in several capacities since joining the association in 1970, including chairman of the professional nursing committee, member of the professional education and membership committees, community programs and education council and a member of the board of trustees since 1977.

*BOB SCHANER, son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schaner of Farmington, has been chosen to participate in the Youth Theater workshop production of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet." He is the lighting designer. He is a junior in the school of design and production at North Carolina School of the Arts.

*PERSONS INTERESTED in applying for positions of animal health inspector and physician's assistant should submit applications to the Michigan Department of Civil Service in Lansing no later than 5 p.m. on July 31. Application forms are available at the office of most county clerks, all Michigan Employment Security Commission Offices and Civil Service offices in Detroit. Although applicants for the animal health inspector position will be evaluated on an individual basis, two years of experience within the last 10 years in buying, selling or raising livestock is recommended. Annual salary for the position ranges from \$12,915 to \$14,114. Persons applying for the physician's assistant position, which carries with it a salary ranging from \$14,866 to \$17,915, should have completed at least the academic requirements for earning a physician's assistantship. The duties of the physician's assistant include performing initial histories and physical examinations on new patients under the direction, supervision and control of a licensed physician.

*BLOOD RECIPIENTS, here is some good news. You will no longer be required to pay a non-replacement fee to any hospital in the five-county area due to a joint agreement between the hospitals and the Southeastern Michigan Red Cross Blood Service. As of July, hospitals in the county discontinued use of the fee indicating their support of the Red Cross program of responsibility for blood. Not generally covered by insurance, the non-replacement fee was charged by some hospitals for each unit of blood transfused. Unless the patient was a member of a blood donor coverage plan, he or she would have to either pay the fee or arrange for family or friends to replace the blood. The non-replacement fee was imposed in addition to the hospital administration and processing fees which are still charged by all hospitals to partially cover the costs of collecting, processing and administering blood and is covered by insurance. Now the Red Cross is looking to persons to donate their blood voluntarily so that all residents' needs can be met and the burden is lifted from those who can least afford it. According to Red Cross officials, the success of the community responsibility has enabled it to collect the needed 560 units of blood per day to meet hospital needs.

*MOTORCYCLISTS listen up. Here are some safety tips. While many motorcyclists are protesting the state helmet laws, many medical authorities warn that safety is even more of a concern. Whether you choose to ride with the comfort of a windshield or not, it is best to wear a face shield or goggles to protect your eyes. A bug or small rock flying into your face can distract or injure you. Regular eyeglasses don't provide proper eye protection on a motorcycle. But make sure that your face shield and goggles are securely fastened so they won't blow off, that they are shatterproof, free from scratches and bear Z2.1 or VESIC 8 standard in the upper right hand corner, that they are well ventilated to prevent fogging that can distort vision, that they are constructed to protect the eyes from dirt, bugs, dust, water and other foreign objects and equipped with clear lenses if used at night since dark or tinted lenses can reduce vision significantly at night.

Don't forget about us here at the INSIDE ANGLES, P.O. BOX 89, SOUTHFIELD 48077.

Special events planned

Former students of Wayne State University may attend a series of special events planned by the university's alumni association.

On Friday, Aug. 18, an excursion to Meadow Brook for the Geo Laine concert will include a catered box lunch with champagne, bus transportation and lawn seating.

September events include a black history tour to "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in Dresden, Ontario on Sept. 24 and a Sept. 30 dinner theater trip to the Black Sheep Tavern in the Irish Hills.

On Oct. 7, the association will sponsor its third annual Michigan Wine Tour—an all-day trip to Paw Paw.

Nov. 17 has been set for Harvest Hoedown, which includes a hayride, spaghetti supper and square dance at Hayride Lodge in Rochester.

Two December events will celebrate the holidays. On Dec. 9, the association has booked Meadow Brook Hall for a dinner party and tour. On Dec. 15, the Clinton Inn has been reserved for a Yuletide Evening in Greenfield Village.

For more information call Alumni House on the WSU campus at 977-2186.

20% off Hudson's entire stock of children's winter outerwear. One week only.

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Reg. \$25 to \$46. Save on warmers for babes and toddlers: Babe sizes 12 to 24 months. One and two-piece pram suits, 40 units, reg. \$25 to \$35, sale \$20 to \$28. Coats, 12 units, reg. \$40 to \$46, sale \$32 to \$36.80. Toddler sizes 2 to 4. Snowsuits, 36 units, reg. \$33-\$55, sale \$26.40-\$44. Coats, 34 units, reg. \$31-\$60, sale \$24.80-\$48. Babe's and Toddler's.

Reg. \$20 to \$42. Little boy's jackets and snowsuits: Find lots of styles and lots of values for boys, sizes 4-7, 40 units, in Boys' 4-7.

sale 26.39 to 31.99

sale 17.60 to 59.20

Reg. \$22 to \$74. Save on outerwear for girls: Jackets of nylon or polyester/cotton with warm linings. 400 units, reg. \$22 to \$46, sale \$17.60 to \$36.80. Coats assorted warm fibers with warm linings. 500 units, reg. \$29 to \$74, sale \$23.20 to \$59.20. All in sizes 4-14. In Girls' Outerwear of Hudson's. Young Teen outerwear, 66 units, reg. \$34 to \$38, sale \$27.20 to \$30.40. In Young Teens of Hudson's.

Reg. \$33 to \$40. Young guy's outerwear of man-sized savings: famous maker parkas, handsome coats and more. All in sizes S-M-L-XL for boys sizes 8-20, 115 units, in Boys' 8-20 of Hudson's.

*Total units available while quantities last.

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