

Dems prepare for state convention

By TIM RICHARD

The mere fact that an office-holder is an incumbent doesn't guarantee him or her renomination in a Democratic state convention.

So while the Aug. 19-20 conclave in Lansing's Civic Center stumps up 12 mainly renominating incumbents, there is always the possibility a long-time official can be bumped off the ballot.

Chief Justice Thomas G. Kavanagh of Troy was denied a Democratic renomination in 1976 because some of his opinions offended party orthodoxy. (He used a different section of the state constitution to renominate himself and won at the polls.)

Warren M. Huff of rural Plymouth withdrew in 1976 from a race for a seat he had long held on the Michigan State University Board of Trustees when it became apparent the young-timers would have him no more.

And Peter Oppewall of Grand Rapids was denied renomination in 1970 to the State Board of Education, again for ideological reasons.

THE PROCESS will begin unfolding next weekend when Democratic precinct delegates meet in district conventions to pick delegates to the state convention.

Here is the lineup of suburban conventions:

- 2nd-Wayne-Sunday, Aug. 20 at 1 p.m. in the Schoolcraft College Liberal

Sales tax ends on eyeglasses, hearing aids

New laws to exempt hearing aids and eyeglasses from state sales and use taxes were recently signed by the governor.

The exemption applies only to devices prescribed by a physician, dentist, nurse, podiatrist, optometrist, otcician or ophthalmologist.

Arts theater, 1800 Haggerty, Livonia.

- 12th District (including eastern Rochester and much of Macomb County)—Saturday, Aug. 19 at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of Mt. Clemens High School, 181 Cass.

- 15th District (including Garden City, Westland and Canton)—Saturday at 10 a.m. in the UAW Region 1-E hall, Telegraph south of Wick.

- 17th District (including Redford, Farmington and Southfield)—Saturday at 10 a.m., VFW hall, 2422 Nine Mile, Southfield.

- 18th District (including Troy and southeast Oakland County)—Saturday at 10 a.m. in UAW Region 1-B hall, 711 W. 13 Mile, Madison Heights.

- 19th District (including Birmingham, West Bloomfield and northwestern Oakland County)—Saturday at 10 a.m. in Oakland County Board of Commissioners auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

HERE ARE the races that could be entertaining:

Lieutenant governor: The fact that gubernatorial nominee William Fitzgerald makes a selection does not assure his chance clear sailing. Sander Levin in 1970 picked Livonia Mayor Ed McNamara as his running mate and ran into a buzzsaw.

The women's caucus, in particular, is on the muscle. With Fitzgerald, U.S. Senate nominee Carl Levin and Secretary of State Richard Austin being from Detroit, the odds of a Detroit being nominated for lieutenant governor are slim.

In the legislature, that leaves seven-term Rep. Joyce Symons of Allen Park, the aging Lucille McCullough of Dearborn and first term Rep. Mary C. Brown of Kalamazoo. Other possibilities among the women are University of Michigan Regent Sarah Goddard Power of Ann Arbor or party vice-chairperson Olivia Maynard.

State Board of Education—Annette Miller of Oakland County is expected to seek reelection. Democrats will have to pick one new face to challenge a Republican incumbent, and it will likely be a male.

Michigan State University trustees—Incumbents Patricia Carrigan of Farmington Hills and Don Stevens of Bloomfield Hills have let it be known they will not seek new terms. The MSU race has been particularly susceptible to ethnic politicking in recent years. Look for a battle here.

University of Michigan regents—Paul Brown and James Waters would ordinarily expect renomination, but the state's premier university has been plagued by labor troubles with AFSCME staff members and graduate assistants represented by the militant

American Federation of Teachers. The board has split politically on support of the Fleming administration. Don't be surprised by an outburst here.

Supreme Court—G. Mennen Williams will have no trouble winning one nomination. The other nominee will face an incumbent Republican justice with the politically potent name of James Ryan.

The supreme court is a major political goal, not only because of the legal decisions it makes but because the court will have to decide legislative reapportionment after the 1980 census.

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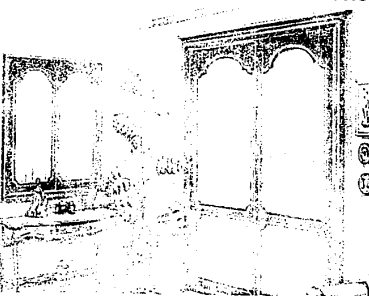
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