

# With A New Look, Sandy Levin Eyes Governor's Chair



SANDY LEVIN HAS A NEW LOOK AS HE PREPARES TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR

So you may want to be governor. Sandy Levin? Well, what's in it for the suburbs?

Our tone was deliberately on the aggressive side when we talked to State Sen. Sander Levin, not because we were being argumentative but because we wanted to draw him out. He has a reputation for being articulate, you know, and was considered outstanding by the Lansing press corps even in his first term.

Levin was in Observerland prior to this weekend's special Democratic State Convention on party reform, and he sat down to talk about some area issues.

He looks different today than he did a couple of years ago when he first became Democratic state chairman, and we kidded him a little. "Contact lenses, still giving a little trouble, aren't they?"

"Today," he answered, "I don't know why. When I was in Puerto Rico, I didn't wear them very much, so I got out of practice."

The sideburns are longer, and the boyish curly hair has a fuller, straighter look, so we needed him again. "Are you going to give up the suburban vote in favor of the hippie vote?"

"I can't answer that," he smiled. Levin is an all-but-declared candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor. To get the nomination, he will be fought by a triketta composed of former Detroit Mayor Jerry Cavanagh; former State Chairman Zoltan Ferenczy, who was forced out of office by Levin backers; and State Sen. Roger Craig Dearborn. One of the three is almost certain to oppose Levin in the primary.

Born in Detroit 39 years ago, Levin attended Central High School, got an A.B. from the University of Chicago, M.A. from Columbia and law degree from Harvard.

THE OLD Sandy Levin had big glasses, curly hair, short sideburns -- but it got him into the State Senate, the Democratic chairmanship and other offices.



He settled with his wife in Berkley, in southeastern Oakland County, and served on the county board of supervisors. From 1961-64 he was Democratic county chairman, and in 1964 he was elected to the State Senate. A year ago, he unhorsed Raymond Dziedzic of northwest Detroit as Senate minority leader but will resign that post soon to hop into the gubernatorial race.

He's interested in party reform. After a lot of questions were raised about the responsiveness and openness of his party following "Chicago 1968," he became vice chairman of the Political Reform Commission headed by former University of Michigan Dean William Haber. This weekend's special state convention is considering that report—and visiting Levin's hospitality suite.

Q. What are your views on federal income tax sharing?

LEVIN: "I'm in favor of a greater capacity by the state to handle social problems. I'm concerned that the income tax sharing proposal could send monies back to the state. In some states that money, instead of being concentrated on problems like housing and

education in urban centers, would be scattered instead.

"So I think we have to find a way, if there's going to be a return from the federal government, to insure the return means greater investment in the problems of the day."

Q. Are you talking about earmarking the federal shared revenue rather than making bloc grants?

A. "I'm not convinced that present income tax sharing plans are pin-pointing enough on social needs, so I would favor some kind of earmarking. In other words, give the states a greater role but don't give them 'carte blanche' to spend money for, let's say, greater marinas for big yachts."

Q. What could you—and what would you—like to do for the suburbs?

A. "First of all, the various areas of the state have to recognize their interdependence. No area can live alone. I say that as somebody who lives in the suburban area, and I have lived her all my married life."

"In areas like housing and recreation and true education reform, these are examples of pressing problems—pressing down on suburban areas—where we can make greater progress."

"Also one of my strong feelings is that if we're going to have additional taxation, there has to be a fair burden. The Republican governor's program is placing too great a burden on middle and low-income families. Much of middle-class Michigan is in the suburbs. Milliken's plan is giving a tax break to the corporations."

Q. What are your feelings on the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments and SEMTA, the transit authority?

A. "I'm in favor of regional cooperation."

SEMOG is a voluntary association of governments in southeastern Michigan and it's precisely that—cooperative.

"I'm not in favor of one huge governmental unit. It's critical, though, that small units cooperate. Otherwise, we're never going to solve our problems."

"I know less about SEMTA. I was away during recent developments. I favor stopping all the talk about mass transit and doing something about it."

Q. What do you look for at this weekend's convention?

A. "There'll be several controversial items."

"One is the issue of 'one man, one vote.' We have that now in election of legislators, but in the political process we haven't used one man, one vote. For example, some precincts will have 800 Democrats, others 200, yet they'll have the same representation (at county/district conventions)..."

Q. You're talking about some sort of presidential primary...

A. "Not necessarily a primary, but there has to be some sort of basic change."

"The minority report recommends a reformed convention system (for picking national convention delegates). The majority report recommends a presidential primary. There are also some amendments to the majority and minority reports to be considered."

"This is a golden opportunity for a political party to reform itself. It's unique. It's a party that is looking at itself and trying to reform from within. I think we have to find a way to give a better opportunity to participate for every citizen."

## GOP In Wayne County

# Minority Group Plans Victory

By LEONARD POGER

The youngest chairman of the Wayne County Republican Party is setting his sights on a number of old-fashioned goals with some new wrinkles in the 1970 political campaigns.

Keith Molin, 32-year-old westland man, outlined his goals for the year's election drives in an interview shortly after his unanimous election as county chairman last week.

Those goals:

- Produce enough votes to elect Gov. William Milliken to a full four-year term and win more legislative seats.

- Elect more Republicans to the Wayne County Board of Supervisors, which now has only two Republicans among its 26 members.

- Make the Republican Party a "more viable element in the community."

MOLIN, who has lived at 30650 Warren for nearly three years, made it clear why the GOP wants to gain more legislative seats, other than for the sheer pride of winning.

This year is a federal census year and sometime in 1971 the state Legislature will realign the state's congressional district boundaries.

At present, the Republicans control the State Senate while the Democrats have a majority in the House of Representatives. Historically, a split Legislature has led to deadlocks on past reapportionment issues.

If the Republicans retain control of the Senate and regain a majority in the House, the party would then be in full control from a partisan viewpoint when it comes to redrawing congressional boundaries.

BESIDES VICTORIES at the ballot box, Molin has some other goals for the Wayne County GOP which has been a minority poli-

tical organization for many years.

Molin wants to open the party for positions and roles filled by college and high school students, "who will be our candidates and leaders soon."

"We must show that the political system, even with its defects, can work," the county chairman said.

Some of the techniques Molin plans to achieve the three primary goals listed above fit in with his hopes of opening up the party to new blood and ideas.

One technique is "an organizational effort employing the technical skills available to reach the voters."

"THESE INCLUDE the use of shoe leather and more efforts by Republican leaders and candidates to meet with groups which haven't invited us in the past," Molin said.

"Sometimes we concluded we were not welcome and it was more convenient to go elsewhere."

"There must also be more emphasis on youth and the making of leadership posts more available to youth," the chairman said.

He stressed his support of allowing those between 18 and 20 years of age to vote, although he admitted that eligible voters had been rejected the idea in Michigan.

"But Abe Lincoln didn't win the first time out, either," Molin pointed out.

TOP PRIORITIES in the 1970 elections, Molin said, will be the winning of one or two congressional seats now held by Democrats, gaining three additional State Senate seats, at least eight house of representative posts, and at least seven additional county board seats.

The two congressional seats Molin has the party's eyes on are those held by Lucien Nedel (14th District) and William Ford

(15th District) who represents Westland and Garden City.

In the State Senate, Molin said that several Democratic incumbents, including William Faust of Westland, are "valuable."

The new county chairman directed the scheduling for Sen. Robert Griffin's successful election campaign in 1966 and offered some thoughts on how he will use that ball's campaign actions during the 1970 election drives.

REPUBLICANS worked hard for Gov. George Romney and Sen. Griffin and both were elected by large pluralities.

But in that and subsequent elections, GOP candidates have been unsuccessful in Wayne County, which has had few Republican officials in the past 20 years.

Molin indicated that the party will spend some of its energies on candidates who face a tough campaign, rather than spending most of its time on those who face little campaign problems.

Molin also pointed out that Republican Gov. Milliken is getting plenty of public support and "there is more movement" seen backing Milliken.

BY GETTING voters to "break with tradition" and not always vote for the incumbent, Molin hopes that the GOP can elect some of its candidates to positions not filled before by Republicans.

He pointed out an attractive Republican congressional candidate in 1968, John T. Boyle, of Westland, mounted a strong campaign against Congressman Ford but still lost by a 2-1 margin.

Part of the reason for the GOP candidate's performance, Molin felt, was the voters' strong preference for Democratic



ELEPHANTS, THE SYMBOL of the Republican Party, come in every shape and design in the apartment of Keith Molin, new Wayne County GOP chairman. (Observer photo)

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