# Beer battling retirement

## 4 seeking judgeship; 4 running unopposed

Four candidates have filed for Judge William J. Beer's seat on the Oakland County Circuit Court. Beér, 71, is fighting a state law ordering judges over 70 to Teller. He's seeking a Michigan Supreme Court order placing him on the Aug. 5 and Nov. 4 election ballots. Last month, the State Court of Appeals rejected Beer's request. Beer, a circuit court judge for 20 years, has said if the state high court bars him from seeking an-

court bars him from seeking another term, he'll return to private law practice.

CANDIDATES FOR the six-CANDIDATES FOR the six-year circuit court term include: • 51st District Court Judge Rob-ert C. Anderson, of Waterford Township, who made an unsuc-cessful circuit court try in 1978. • James F. McCarthy, Pontiac,

an assistant Oakland County pre-secutor.

• Attorney Michael S. Freud, who practices in Southfield and re-sides in Keego Harbor.

• West Bloomfield attorney Richard J. Amberg.
Both Freud Amberg are in private practice. Amberg sued obkland County several years ago regarding conditions in the county jail.

FOUR INCUMENT circuit adges are unopposed in re-elec-

judges are unopposed in re-elec-tion bids.

They include Chief Circuit
Judge John N. O'Brien, Berkley,
Judge Richard D. Kuhn, of Inde-pendence Township, and Judge Frederick C. Ziem, of Waterford Township. Ziem, 64, a circuit judge since 1960, is eligible for one



last six-year term under the state

last six-year term under the state mandatory retriement law. Judge George LaPlata, of West Bloomfield, is unopposed for a four-year term on the 6th Circuit bench. He was appointed to the Oakland circuit court last fall by Gow. William Milliken to fill by Gow. William Milliken to fill the vacency caused by the death of Judge Bernard L. Kaufman. LaPlata will complete the six-year term Kaufman was originally elected to in 1978.

### Lower drinking age petition drive nearing deadline at halfway mark

With three weeks to go before the fil-ing deadline, a petition campaign to lower the legal drinking age in Michi-gan to 19 has half of its goal of 350,000 signatures.

To qualify as a referendum on the Nov. 4 hallot, the petition campaign needs 280,000 signatures from regis-tered voters. If the referendum quali-fies, voters would be asked to drop the legal drinking age from 21.

Two years ago, voters raised the drinking age from 18.

"WE'RE IN pretty fair shape," said William McMaster, whose Troy public, relations firm was hired by campalign organizers, including the Michigan Li-censed Beverage Association and the state Bowling Proprietors Association. McMaster said \$95,000 has been raised for the campaign, which began in March. He said the bulk of the mon-

ey has come from "independent and small businessmen throughout the

Shail values and the state."

The licensed beverage association has been circulating petitions through its member tavern owners. In addition, said McMaster, "we've been concentrating to some degree on college cam-

puses.
Despite the voter sanctioned in-

crease in the drinking age two years ago, McMaster said lower age proponents think once their referendum is on the ballot, it will pass.

It is fall ballot, which will likely mean a higher voter turn-out than in 1978 and "no decrease" in drinking among 19-21-year-olds age.

"What has changed is where they drink," said McMaster, adding that the car has become a popular spot for young drinkers.

The 18-year-old drinking law passed with 57 percent of the vote in the car has become a popular spot for young drinkers.

The 18-year-old drinking law passed with 57 percent of the vote in Novem-

#### Computer space sold to HFCC

or heary front community contege heat occording to the consequence of the contract unanimous approval, but not be-fore asking hard questions for the bet-ter part of an hour June 5.
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