For your convenience:

Oakland ballot proposals face court challenge

The League of Women Voters is in Oakland Circuit Court to block four public transportation advisory questions from going on the Nov. A ballot.

The questions are "misleading and poorly worded," according to Libby Richards, president of the Detroit Metro Area LWW.

Moreover, the county lacks local thereis.

Moreover, the county lacks legal au-thority to place the advisory questions on the ballot, the league charged Fri-

on the ballet, the league charged Friday.

"The citizens would be poorly served by having to vote on such questions," Ms. Richards said of the proposals, which relate to the Southeastern Michigan Transportation Authority. "Our efforts at persuading the county commission to withdraw the questions, or at the very least reword them, were unsuccessful."

The league is pro-SEMTA. Placing the questions on the ablot was largely the work of anti-SEMTA commissioners John Federson, R-Avon, and Amboart, Il-Waterford, and those who

Oakland County. It charged:

**Robert Allen, county corporation counsel and legal adviser to the board, advised, the board that neither the state constitution nor state laws granted counties authority to ask advisory questions on the ballot.

**Slected Officials are empowered to make decisions, difficult and controversial as some may be, and. . should not abdicate that responsibility.

**The first ballot question ask, "Shall at the be assessed against the residents

plinary teams of healthcare profession-als including an oncologist, nurse, med-ical social worker, clinical dietician, physical therapist, chaplain and com-

Healthcare Services.

Cancer patients and Jamily members can register for the "I Can Cope course by calling the American Cancer Society at 1879-1834 class size is limited and participants are expected to attend every class session. Persons interested in courses at other tri-county locations should inquire at the same telephone number.

object to a partly-underground rapid transit line.

REPRESENTING the league is Tom Downs, a former Constitutional states to peticular law system, including a subway, as the constitution of the transportation system, including a subway, as the constitution of the transportation system, including a subway, as the constitution of the transportation authoria. The league is a most of the constitution of the transportation subtracts as the constitution of the transportation of the tr

nance and operation of such as transpaymen.
The league called it misleading because "a voter could assume incorrectly that a 'yes' vote. . . would give complete local control to Oakland County. This is questionable," it said, citing a law that gives three of nine board appointments to the governor.

The league said many ramifications of Oakland's, withdrawing from SEMTA — the subject of one question—are unexplained.

— are unexplained.

MS. RICHARDS said the league's own positions are that it 1) supports financial support of SEMTA, 2) opposes oklands' withdrawing from SEMTA, 3) opposes setting up a separate Oakhand County transit system and 4) has no opinion on the question of assessing taxes for a separate Oakland transit system.

County Board Chairman Wallace
Gabler Jr., R-Royal Oak, who "reluctantly" voted to place the questions on
the ballot, said:
"I generally follow the opinion of
corporation counsel and respect it. But
there was precedent for advisory questions in three or four other counties"
he cited Washtenaw and Kent -- "so I
saw no problem.

saw no problem.
"There is no permissive legislation



(allowing advisory questions) but no re-strictive legislation, either.
"My basic position is that there should have been one clean and concise ballot question. I reluctantly voted to

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support on the basis of 5,000 petition signatures asking for a vote. My respect for the petition process overrode my feelings about the ambiguity of the questions. Most on the board distribute high control of the petition of the board distribute high control of the petitions. The period of the petitions were not petitions and the petition of the petitions are not petitions.

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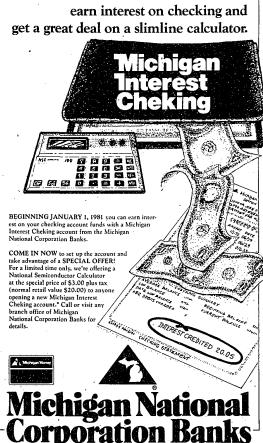


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