

# STATE REPRESENTATIVES

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS

Michigan's 110 state representatives serve two-year terms in the lower house of the legislature. They must be registered voters and residents of the district they represent. Salary is \$27,000 plus \$5,200 expenses.

Candidates were asked to summarize their biographies in 35 words or less and to answer each of the following questions in 50 words or less:

1. What changes, if any, would you propose in Michigan's taxation system? Why?
2. If budget reductions are needed in the

next fiscal year, which area(s) would you cut?

3. What should be the role of the state government in meeting Michigan's future energy needs?

4. What incentives, if any, should state government offer to private industry to encourage location in Michigan?

5. How can transportation systems throughout the state be equitably funded?

6. What do you feel would be appropriate state-level efforts to conserve agricultural lands?

## 24th District

### William T. Roberts

Democrat, 34, of Walled Lake. Sales representative for 14 years for J. L. Hudson's. Education: Graduate, Walled Lake Central High School, attended Oakland Community College. Qualifications: Mayor, City of Walled Lake, 1973-1977; mayor pro tem, September 1971-November 1973; councilman, April 1968-November 1973 and November 1979 to present; city manager, January-June 1974 and October-December 1976.

1. The present property tax system is inequitable. I support the property tax relief program which with the Homestead Act will provide 100 percent state payment for seniors and a \$350 credit or 40 percent payment to others. I also support the \$140 tax credit proposed to renters.

2. I support a Sunset Law for the periodic review of all state departments and budgets. When "fat" is found in any area, I would vote to cut its budget.

3. Ninety percent of Michigan energy is imported. The state must make plans to meet shortfalls. Two areas of untapped energy in Michigan are hydroelectric power and wind energy. I would support, with tax incentives, those who turn to alternative forms of energy and those who conserve energy.

4. Michigan has great assets: A skilled work force, an excellent market, and outstanding shipping facilities. We must develop a tax structure competitive with those states that have been siphoning off Michigan industries. Development of a federal minimum standard for workmen's compensation is a must.

5. There has been a severe decline in revenue from the present gas and weight tax, while material costs have risen dramatically. Without adequate funding, road maintenance will be non-existent. The fairest funding would be to replace the cents per gallon tax with a percentage tax on the purchase of gasoline.

6. I believe the most effective measure would be greater tax relief for agriculture

lands, thereby not taxing a family off its land. Also a limited land use plan that would not take away local control, nor delay a developer, should be explored.

### Richard D. Fessler

Republican, incumbent, 37, of West Bloomfield. Michigan state representative, serving third term; attorney at law. Education: Graduate, Oakland University, 1969, BA; graduate, University of Detroit Law School, 1972.

1. Property taxes must be reduced in Michigan. The property tax system in Michigan has become an onerous burden. Inflation has created a spiraling situation wherein assessed valuations of property are rising at an ever increasing rate.

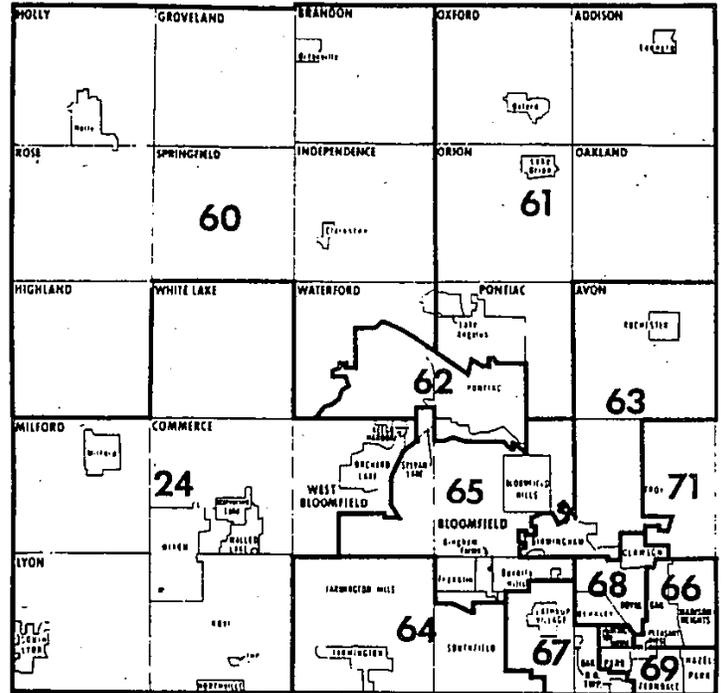
2. Reduce social service benefits to the level of our surrounding sister states. Freeze and reduce the number of state employees. Review programs that have been in existence for years which are no longer necessary. Remove college students from DSS rolls.

3. To work as a partner with the state's major utilities and create an atmosphere conducive to expansion of energy production. Michigan should be an exporter of electrical energy and not an importer.

4. If Michigan would reform its Workers Compensation Act and Unemployment Compensation Act, it would be incentive for new business to locate in Michigan. However, the Democrat-labor dominated legislature will not act.

5. In order to equitably fund mass transit systems throughout Michigan, a proposal for a statewide tax should be placed on the ballot for the people to vote on — approve or disapprove. The funds collected should be earmarked for transportation.

6. Appropriate incentive for preservation of farm land would be reduction of property taxes on land being used agriculturally. Many farmers are forced to sell their property because they can no longer maintain payment of property taxes.



I - DISTRICT NUMBER  
--- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

nism that will insure that a portion will be returned to the unit of origin, and the local amount raised will be matched with state and federal monies.

6. I believe Act 116, Farmland Exemption, and the Wetlands Bill that was recently passed will do an adequate job to conserve farmland.

### Sharyn Giddy

Republican, 43, of Milford. Qualifications: Related college courses in government and psychology, office and business experience in medicine, counseling and sales. As an elected legislative and administrative official, made difficult decisions, was informed of issues and responded to people's concerns.

1. Due to the unfairness of property taxes in Michigan, I would propose their complete elimination, and for revenue would rely primarily upon a flat rate tax upon all gross income over a minimum amount; I support a complete revision of the Workmen's Compensation laws and replacing the single business tax.

2. After first eliminating all possible waste and delaying all non-essential capital expenditures, if further budget reductions are needed in the next fiscal year, I would begin first with those areas of the budget which do not affect essential public

health, safety and educational programs.

3. The state must develop and implement a comprehensive energy program covering and encouraging an efficient public transportation system, incentives for conservation and exploration, development and/or research of alternative energy sources.

4. We have enough incentives - we need to reduce the obstacles. Most importantly, the state must have equitable workmen's compensation and employment laws. Then, it must have corporate taxation laws which encourage investment in both plants and people, and an educational system providing trained workers with skills to offer potential employers.

5. Where possible, the maxim that the transportation system user should support that system according to its use should apply. However, a well developed mass transportation system will probably always require subsidies beyond federal levels of support. Beyond construction, those subsidies should be borne by the localities which the system serves.

6. Consistent with my answer to question one, I would eliminate all property taxes, the greatest of all incentives to preserve agricultural land, and thereafter treat the farm as the special business it is. I would support the continued deferment of taxes for farmland preservation.

## 60th District

### Claude A. Trim

Democrat, incumbent, 45, of Davisburg. State representative. Education: Clarkson High; GMC Truck and Coach apprentice school; Oakland University - Industrial management certificate; Oakland Community College - assessing certificate level II. Qualifications: two terms, Springfield Township supervisor; former metal model maker; supervisor, GM Truck and Coach engineering.

1. I have initiated legislation, House Resolution EE, which would cut assessments to 25 percent and would allow the legislature, with a 2/3 vote, to raise alternative revenue.

2. Budget cuts need to be done equally as a basis because nobody wants cuts. If there is to be a priority, I feel education is an area we need to be very careful about.

3. We need the consensus of people of expertise to declare just where we are at and what needs to be done. There need to be incentives to develop gasohol and other alternative fuel production in the state.

4. Need to rework the Workmen's Compensation rates and also study the effects of the recent single business tax and assure it is equally being assessed and is not becoming a hardship on certain small businesses.

5. Whether it be by income or road tax, or special levy, we must have a mecha-

## 61st District

### Alice Tomboulion

Democrat, incumbent, 46, of Rochester.

State representative, January 1979-present; Oakland Township trustee, planning (Continued on Page 7)