

Jaycees: balance the budget

The 9,000-member Michigan Jaycees organization will join the effort for a balanced-budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution, President Rick Young said.

Young, 31, of Rochester, announced at a news conference in Detroit that the Jaycees adopted the balanced-budget initiative as a "major emphasis" project for this fall. The group has more than 200 chapters.

Young said the group will conduct door-to-door canvassing for signatures on advisory petitions which will be turned in to state legislators in late October.

prompting Congress to pre-empt the issue by advancing its own balanced-budget amendment without a constitutional convention.

Besides the Jaycees, the coalition for the balanced-budget amendment includes the Michigan Association of Realtors, the State Chamber of Commerce, the Farm Bureau, Michigan Bankers Association, Michigan Homebuilders Association, Michigan Manufacturers Association and National Federation of Independent Business.

At present, 32 of the required 34 states have petitioned the U.S. Congress for a constitutional convention to achieve a balanced budget. The effort actually is aimed at

Daniel T. Murphy, a likely candidate for governor, is urging Republicans to use private contractors to deliver governmental services, a practice Murphy says he has used successfully in the 12 years he has been Oakland County executive.



Murphy: use more private contractors

Republicans should make "privatization" — the use of private contractors in delivering governmental services — a central issue in 1988, says Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy.

"Our goal should be to maintain vital services while reducing the cost of state government by 10 percent," said Murphy, who is eyeing the GOP nomination for governor next year.

"That 10 percent should be dedicating to reducing taxes," Murphy said Wednesday in speeches in Oakland County, Flint, the House press room in Lansing, Grand Rapids and Cadillac.

PRIVATIZATION means contracting with businesses to perform certain state and local governmental services — a practice Murphy said he had used successfully in the 12 years he has been Oakland County executive and which he wants to see used in Lansing.

Murphy sees it as making governmental agencies more competitive since they know a private contractor can take work away from them.

Murphy refrained from announcing his own candidacy against Democratic Gov. James Blanchard in 1986. But he did say he would appoint a Commission on Michigan Government Competition to hold hearings and make specific proposals.

The commission will include governmental, business, education and labor leaders, he said.

"This will be the first time competition will be promoted as a systematic approach to state government," he said.

"I expect the new plan to be ready in the summer of 1988 and to be presented by the Republican governor to the 1987 session of the Legislature."

"IN OAKLAND County," he went on, "we have privatized our laundry, saving taxpayers \$250,000 a year. We have privatized our custodial services, resulting in a one-time saving of almost \$1 million and an annual saving of \$300,000.

"And we are investigating the idea of having a private firm handle the jailing of the county's non-violent criminals, which could save the county millions.

"Government must serve the people of this state, not enhance the power of bureaucracy.

"We as Republicans must press the Blanchard Administration. If Michigan continues on its present course, we will have more government, more taxes, reduced services and an even worse climate for business to grow and expand in," Murphy said.

"I see Michigan as a state where competition becomes the key, the linchpin, the engine of the state where people don't come for a handout but where they flock for an opportunity to compete on a level playing field for the fruits of hard-earned but well-deserved victories."



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