Poll: Courts complicated, slow but fair

believe state court proceedings take too long, cost too much and are too complicated. They support proposals to reduce court delays and costs, a statewide public opinion survey

showed.

At the same time, they gave the Michigan Supreme Court a higher confidence rating than the news media, public schools, the U.S. Congress and the Michigan Legislature. Polls results were reported by the state Supreme Court,

The 26-member blue-ribbon Clut-res' Commission to Improve Michigan Courts was named by the Michigan Supreme Court to recommend

THE FIRST-EVER survey of Michigan citizens' attitudes toward the legal system was done for the Citizens' Commission to Improve Michigan Courts by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Re-search (ISR).

Justice Patricia J. Boyle, the su-pervising Supreme Court justice for the citizens' panel, said the survey will be published as part of the com-mission's final report which will be released in mid-September. "Many of the survey's findings confirm testimony the Commission heard at public hearings throughout the state," Boyle said.

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Most citizens believe court proceedings are hard to follow (84 percent), take too long (81 percent) and going to court is expensive (76 percent), Generally, persons who have been to court have a tendency to be more critical of court operations.

More than one-third (35 percent) have a high level of confidence in the Michigan Supreme Court followed by the news media (26 percent), public schools (25 percent), public schools (25 percent), The U.S. Supreme Court (44 percent) ranked first.



'Many of the survey's findings confirm testimony the Commission heard at public hearings throughout the state.'

Loan program a boon

"That was half of what we'd normally collect from taxes," said Perry "We'd normally receive that money over a period of time spanning as late as November. So we can invest they money at 7 percent interest instead of waiting for it. We don't need the money until the bills begin coming in in September, when we start paying teachers salaries and for books."

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A majority of Michigan residents (62 percent) believe courts should operate at night and on weekends in addition to their regular

ends in addition to their regular hours.

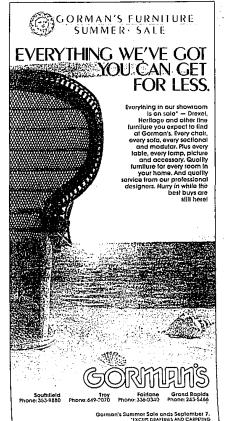
• 62 percent favor use of informal procedures and panels of local citizens as an alternative to resolve disputes between neighbors, petty larceny cases and the like.

• 66 percent favor developing criminal trial procedures so that dereten that would recorn retention or removal of judges. legal insurance similar to car or health insurance.

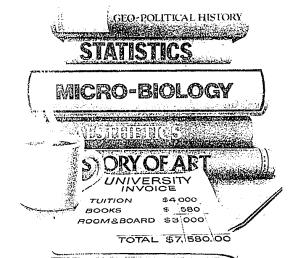
• 73 percent oppose changing Michigan's present system of elect-ing judges to an appointive system, out 76 percent would favor establish-ing a judical performance review committee that would recommend



• 71 percent believe courts do not treat poor people the same as they do wealthy people. (76 percent of the Detroit respondents felt this way, and 68 percent outstate residents considerations."







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