

Freedom Council scores in delegate race

For a closeup look at this past weekend's state GOP convention, see Page 5A.

By Joanne Maliszewski
staff writer

The numbers vary depending on who is guessing.

But backers of television evangelist Marlon (Pat) Robertson's Freedom Council appear to have carried a fair amount of Farmington and Farmington Hills precinct delegate support in the Aug. 5 primary.

Supporters of Vice President George Bush acknowledge the apparent growing strength of the Robertson-founded Freedom Council. But they are equally as certain that Bush received strong delegate support in the Farmington area.

Supporters of U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp, R-New York, claim precinct victory over Bush backers yet confirm the strong support for the Freedom Council.

The Freedom Council calls on fundamentalist Christians to get in-

volved in the political system. Because of federal campaign spending laws, the council cannot be affiliated or support any one political candidate. According to reports, Robertson has removed himself from council affiliations — although the beliefs of members seem to parallel Robertson's and many voice support for him.

Thirty-three delegates were elected from the Farmington area — 27 from Farmington Hills and six from Farmington. Some of these delegates will select state delegates — at the state convention in Detroit Friday — to the National Republican Convention, who, in turn, will pick the Republican presidential candidate in the 1988 race.

"WE DON'T know (who delegates support) unless we know them personally," said Pat Wierzbicki, political director for the Republican Committee of Oakland County in Pontiac.

At least 10 Farmington Hills precinct delegates are considered Freedom Council supporters, according

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— Pat Wierzbicki
Republican Committee
of Oakland County

to Marlene Elwell, Michigan coordinator for the Freedom Council. She has counted 10 delegates for Robertson, 10 for Bush and six for Kemp.

Farmington Hills Councilman Donn Wolf, a precinct delegate and strong Kemp supporter disagrees slightly. He'll concede the 10 delegates for Freedom Council, but believes that more Hills delegates support Kemp than Bush.

From the Bush-supporter point of view, some of the numbers shape up differently.

Bush supporter Alfred Diebel,

three-term president of the Farmington Area Republican Club, said he is certain at least five Hills precincts were dominated by Freedom Council backers. He lost his bid for delegate to Elwell in the 19th precinct race.

If delegates are speaking honestly about their support, Diebel said, Bush supporters were victorious in their domination of the precinct delegate race in the Hills. Though five are Freedom Council backers, at least 14 delegates support Bush, with the remaining precincts going to Kemp, he said.

IN FARMINGTON, three of the six precinct delegates are Freedom Council supporters, according to Elwell and Wolf. Two delegates support Kemp and one Bush, Wolf added.

Steve Bruce, a Farmington delegate in the 1st precinct, disagrees. Two delegates — both political newcomers — were recruited by the Freedom Council, he said. Although uncertain how many remaining delegates are Bush supporters, Bruce said he is certain Farmington has one Kemp supporter — himself.

Much of the uncertainty over who delegates support comes from Freedom Council officials instructing their recruited delegates to avoid admitting they are Council supporters, Republican party officials and members said.

Elwell confirmed that delegates were instructed to say they support-

ed Kemp. The Freedom Council's decision to recruit delegates was simply an effort "to get Christians involved in the political arena" by being elected as delegates rather than to cause friction between the political newcomers and mainstream Republicans, Elwell said.

While the guessing continues, both local and Oakland County Republican Party officials and members say it's too early to pay great attention to the 1988 presidential election. That's particularly true, party officials said, when Robertson, Bush and Kemp have not yet declared their candidacies.

Attention should have been paid instead to the state Republican convention this past weekend where delegates nominated candidates for lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, supreme court and state university governing boards.

THE PREVIOUS week delegates for the 18th Congressional District (which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills) elected delegates to attend the state convention. Farmington was apportioned four delegates and alternates and the Hills will send 18, Wierzbicki said.

Democrats use a different system for picking their presidential candidate. That party's 1986 precinct delegates have nothing to do with the 1988 presidential process.

While there is plenty of time for delegates, especially those going on the national convention, to decide whom they support, mainstream Republicans are feeling a little irked by their conservative colleagues in the Freedom Council.

"This year, people who know absolutely nothing about the process want to be precinct delegates," Wierzbicki said.

Although Republicans are happy about new people becoming interested in the party, they are uncertain

whether it's appropriate for Freedom Council supporters — relatively inexperienced in the political arena — to run for precinct delegate so early in their involvement.

Much of the problem stems from those "party regulars who have paid their dues" and are long-term delegates or are seeking election, only to be defeated by people who are new and inexperienced, Wierzbicki said.

DIEBEL SUMS up the Freedom Council supporters as those Republicans who feel that party members have not yet completed the agenda of issues, particularly moral issues such as abortion and the family.

"They look at these as the remaining items on the shopping list," Diebel said.

Precinct winners in the Hills are Shirley Hench, Precinct 1; Marie Bowers, Precinct 2; Cynthia Beck, Precinct 3; Paul Clunis, Precinct 4; John DeCatur, Precinct 5; Donn Wolf, Precinct 6; Mary Buba, Precinct 7; Sharon McDonald, Precinct 8; Patrick Rogers, Precinct 9; Mary Avery, Precinct 10; Elizabeth Lister, Precinct 11; A. Janette Dolan, Precinct 12; Kathleen Brennan, Precinct 13.

Other Hills winners include Marlene Elwell, Precinct 14; Charlene Krygler, Precinct 15; Iris Finsilver, Precinct 16; Jean Fox, Precinct 17; Julie Pulgini, Precinct 18; Carol Markey, Precinct 19; Randall Hoffman, Precinct 20; Janet Taylor Larson, Precinct 21; Michael Chekal, Precinct 22; Carl Damlon Gill, Precinct 23; Peter Gilbert, Precinct 24; Terry Sever, Precinct 25; David Murley, Precinct 26; Katherine Clark, Precinct 27.

In Farmington, the winners are Stephen Bruce, Precinct 1; Bruce Knapp, Precinct 2; Elizabeth Gabel, Precinct 3; Irene Krauskoff, Precinct 4; L. David Stader, Precinct 5; Jack Gillary, Precinct 6.

Delegates serve two-year terms.

City recodification begins

It's going to cost 21 grand to change the Farmington City Code. That's the cost for publishing five supplements and 250 amendments to the code. It was last amended in 1967.

Included in the newer version will be the City Charter and the Uniform Traffic Code, which the city has adopted as its local code. This project was planned during discussion of the annual 1986-87 budget, and budgeted at \$15,000 over a two-year period.

The city council voted unanimously Monday in favor of the change that will take consultants 6-8 months to review. City officials do not expect the new code books to be published for at least a year.

"Each department head looked at the current code and offered suggestions," said City Manager Robert Deadman told the council. About 100 suggestions were offered, he added.

If a supplement were to be printed detailing only these suggestions, Deadman estimated it could cost upwards of \$6,000.

OU offering review of auditor's exam

Registration is open now for the Sept. 6 Oakland University's Certified Internal Auditor Examination Review program which prepares internal auditors for the certification exam scheduled for Nov. 13-14.

The professional CIA review program is offered by OU's division of continuing education in conjunction with the Detroit chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors.

It is the only preparation for CIA certification offered for the public by an educational institution.

Classes in the 11-week program will be conducted Saturdays, Sept. 6 to Nov. 8 from 8-10 a.m. and from 10 a.m. to noon on the Rochester campus. Tuition ranges from \$50 to \$100; registration fee is \$15. To register, call 370-3120, between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. weekdays.

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