

# 'South end' loses on clerk, courts

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By Tim Richard  
staff writer

The battle cry is "equity" for the so-called "south end," which is losing two battles in the Oakland County Board of Commissioners.

A deeply divided general government committee Monday rejected:

- The south end's longstanding request for a satellite office of the county clerk.
- An attempt to seek county subsidies for local district courts — the same kinds of subsidies the county pays to the 52nd District Court which serves Troy, the Rochester area and "north-end" townships.



Robert Page  
'good idea — but'

by program.

And so it appeared the decades-old north-south, urban-outcounty battle wasn't settled in Monday's committee meeting.

BUT IT WASN'T a pure Republican-Democratic fight. Both parties were split.

Committee Chairman John Olsen, R-Huntington Woods, voted with three Democrats on a motion to set up a satellite county clerk's office in the south end. The motion lost 5-4.

"I like the idea," said Commissioner Robert Page, R-Birmingham, "but I haven't seen the demonstrated need."

To Pernick, however, the need was amply demonstrated by the fact that communities with a quarter of the county's population had asked, at one time or another, for south-end satellite offices.

Calandro quoted Clerk Lynn Allen as saying many services are now performed by mail, removing the need for south-end residents to drive to the county seat in Pontiac.

THE COURT-subsidy question split commissioners even more deeply.

Nine district courts are funded by local control units — the 45th by the Southfield area, the 47th by the Farmington communities and so on.

Not the 52nd District Court. For historic reasons, the county funds it, and the subsidies weren't an issue as

long as they were small. But according to Pernick, the 52nd has run a cumulative deficit of \$7.6 million in 14 years that is growing.

County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said a flat "no" to county subsidization of other district courts, branding it "an absolute giveaway. The county cannot practice revenue sharing."

Murphy also rejected the companion idea of a county takeover of any district courts.

THREE SOLUTIONS had three different champions, but none could get a majority of the nine committee votes.

• State takeover of district court funding — Commissioner Ruel McPherson, D-Hazel Park. The idea is advocated by Supreme Court Chief

Justice G. Mennen Williams. Murphy called it the only solution but saw "no possibility that the state will undertake this in the near future."

• An equity package of county subsidies of all district courts — Pernick. Several commissioners — including Republicans — expressed disappointment that Murphy declined even to run a budget study of this option. But a 5-4 majority refused to forward the idea to the finance committee for a commission-run study.

• Turn at least two divisions of the 52nd District Court over to cities — Aaron. He specified the 3rd Division, whose largest city is Rochester Hills, and the 45th Division, which covers Troy and Clawson. Aaron's proposal lost 5-4, with Republican Olsen joining three Democrats on the short end.



Larry Pernick  
'equity package'

## Jobless rate down with auto callbacks

Michigan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by 0.7 percent to 8.2 percent in August.

The drop in joblessness was spearheaded by a growth in service jobs and the callback of workers from temporary July model changeover layoffs in automotive and related manufacturing industries, said Richard Simmons Jr., director of the Michigan Employment Security Commission.

Simmons said the number of jobless workers in the state fell by 29,000 in August to 356,000. In July, the rate had been 8.9 percent with 385,000 out of work.

A year ago, August 1985, Michigan's unemployment rate was 10.1 percent with 439,000 jobless.

The two-month decline in Michigan's jobless rate brings it to its lowest August level since 1979, when it was an even 8 percent.

Simmons said employment rose in several of the state's industries during the month, including tourism-related, retail trade, construction and in local government as well as in the auto and related manufacturing industries.

The rate of improvement in Michigan's jobless rate has surpassed that of the nation's, Simmons said. In comparison with the nation's 11 most populous states, Michigan and Ohio both had unemployment rates of 8.2 percent in August, ranking them second to Texas with its rate of 9.2 percent.



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