

# Treasurer Deitch quietly seeks Dem win

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Chances are you won't hear much about Larry Deitch the next two years. But if the 59-year-old Birmingham attorney does his work well, Michigan Democrats will repeat their 1986 success in '88.

That's when they hope to re-elect U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle and deliver the state's presidential electoral vote to a Democrat for the first time in 20 years.

"Our function is to elect Democrats," said Deitch as the party's state central committee unanimously elected state party treasurer.

Uninterested in elective office himself, Deitch told why he sought the unpaid party job that will cost him many hours away from his real estate and corporate practice in Southfield.

"I believe strongly in the principles of the Democratic Party. I feel I can contribute as a citizen. I have fun. I meet nice people."

ONE OF THOSE "nice people" is the man he succeeds, Thomas Roach, an Ann Arbor attorney and also an elected regent of the University of Michigan. Roach had held the job a decade.

"He's able, smart and tough-minded."



Larry Deitch  
citizen treasurer

ed. Those are big shoes to fill," said Deitch.

The job is a combination of the traditional controller, keeping books, preparing a budget, approving expenditures and fund-raising," said Deitch, who had been Roach's assistant treasurer.

Quipped Richard (Rick) Wiener, who was elected to his third term as state chairman: "It's his job to keep

me out of jail. I wish him well in that regard."

TO DEITCH'S law partner and fellow Democratic activist, Don Tucker, the job is serious.

"There are many legal reporting requirements," said Tucker, Birmingham resident who was re-elected 18th Congressional District chairman.

"That job is part of the institutional business of running of the party that doesn't get the glamour. It's not just the Don Riegles but the volunteers who keep democracy functioning after 200 years.

"I'm pleased for him. Larry might not like my telling this, but his hero is Bob Strauss," Tucker said. Strauss is the businessman who rose from party treasurer in Texas to national treasurer, national chairman and diplomat in the Carter administration.

DEITCH'S EARLIEST political memory was in 1960, when his father took him to a rally at the State Fairgrounds to hear presidential candidate John F. Kennedy.

"I had a Kennedy poster, and at the rally I saw (then) Gov. G. Mennen Williams and (UAW President) Walter Reuther walking together. I got them to autograph it for me. I

still have that on my wall," Deitch said.

"(Since high school) in Detroit, I've been dropping leaflets."

He and Tucker were chums at U-M in the 1960s and have become fast friends as well as law partners. "It's unusual," said Tucker, "to have two activists in the same law firm."

Deitch has worked on a long list of political campaigns and in 1984 was a national convention alternate in San Francisco.

He calculates the new job will absorb 8-10 hours a month in the off season, more when the campaign be-

comes intense.

"I've had weeks where I've done nothing else," he said.

DEMOCRATS WHO pride themselves on intra-party squabbles were almost apologetic at the lack of excitement during Sunday's two-hour convention in Detroit's Cobo Hall.

Former state chairman Morley Winograd played a practical joke by nominating Tucker for treasurer against Deitch.

About 1,400 of the total contingent of 3,339 possible delegates showed up for Sunday's full session.

"The surprising thing is there are so many here when there are no contests," said U.S. Rep. Sander Levin, D-Southfield, during Saturday's packed 17th Congressional District caucus (see story on district elections). "For a non-controversial convention, it's one of the better turnouts I've seen."

RIDGELY SURPRISED no one with a horse announcement he would seek a third six-year term in the U.S. Senate. He said his chief project would be trade laws to curb imports of particularly autos, and particularly from Japan.

## Dems' elections tame

Democrats elected congressional district officers in caucuses prior to Sunday's state convention in Detroit. Here are local officers.

### 17TH DISTRICT

Dan Paleto, Dearborn Heights council president, was elected chairman of the 17th Congressional District organization, succeeding Marie Weigold, a Detroit'er who retired after a decade. She continues as an executive officer.

Other officers are: treasurer, Tom Lawton of Detroit; corresponding secretary, Karen White of Berkeley; and recording secretary, Judy Ancell of Oak Park.

Vice chairs are: first, Vicki Goldbaum of Southfield; second, Sheila Pollack of Huntington Woods; third, Mike Baharrah of Redford.

Delegates to the Democratic State Central Committee are John Dewan

of Madison Heights, Sam McKnight of Royal Oak, Barry Lepler of Huntington Woods, Ed Plawewski of Dearborn Heights, Larry Lewis of Detroit, Dorothy Mirk of Berkeley, Martha Kinney of Pleasant Ridge, Arrielle Evans of Southfield, Grace Hampton of Inkster and Catherine Starks of Detroit.

### 18TH DISTRICT

There were almost no contests when 18th Congressional District Democrats from Oakland, Livingston and Macomb counties gathered last month to pick district leaders.

Donald Tucker, Birmingham attorney, was re-elected chair. Vice chairs are Vicki Krenn of Rochester, Gerald Freedman of Farmington Hills, Ruth Muzel of South Lyon and Alex Williamson of Rochester.

Gary Kohut of Troy, the 1986 congressional nominee, told delegates

that incumbent Republican William Broomfield is "an inviolable representative" and that a campaign had forced Broomfield to become more visible. "We did 26 percent (of the vote) in 1986. Next time I hope to improve that to 2 to 1," Kohut said.

Other officers are: recording secretary, Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills; corresponding secretary, Martha Blom of Orchard Lake; and treasurer, Cleely Brookover of Bloomfield Township.

Also elected were these members of the Democratic State Central Committee: Harry Moss of Southfield Township, Bill Ward of West Bloomfield Township, Brian McKenzie of Novi, Linda Lash of Rochester, Joann Murphy of Brighton, Mary Ryan Taras of Birmingham, B.J. Griffin of Auburn Hills, Vicki Barnett of Farmington Hills and Bill Evans of Macomb County.

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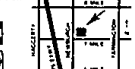
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