

# Bush's court win makes GOP shuffle plans

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

Republicans in the 17th Congressional District had to shuffle their Jan. 14 convention plans after George Bush's presidential campaign won a court battle over the Kemp-Robertson coalition.

"It's significant — it deals a major blow to the Pat Robertson effort," said 17th District chairman Andy Anuzis.

"I'm revoking my call to a district convention and encouraging delegates to go to separate Wayne and Oakland county 17th District conventions," said Anuzis. The Oakland-17th covers the Southfield and Royal Oak areas. The Wayne County portion will meet in Redford Township.

THE OAKLAND portion of the 17th will meet in Pontiac, with the

Oakland portions of the 6th and 7th congressional districts, at 7:30 p.m. in the Board of Commissioners auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph.

They will be convened by Oakland County GOP chairman Larry Dickerson and split into caucuses to elect their state convention delegates.

In the 18th Congressional District, chairman Dallas Haun will call the session to order at the same hour in Bloomfield Hills Lahser High School. The 18th includes Rochester, most of Troy, the Birmingham-Bloomfield area, West Bloomfield and the Farmington area.

Across Michigan, local conventions will elect 1,805 delegates to a state convention Jan. 29-30 in Grand Rapids. The state convention will pick 77 delegates — first batch in the nation — to the 1988 presidential nominating convention in August in New Orleans.

THE SHUFFLE occurred after Kent Circuit Judge Roman Snow ruled Thursday that the Kemp-Robertson majority on the Republican State Committee illegally changed party rules and apportionment procedures.

Under the Kemp-Robertson procedure, the 17th would have met at a separate convention in a Southfield church.

Judge Snow ruled, "State party rules adopted (Dec. 12) . . . restrict the right of county committees to determine the method of electing delegates to the 1988 Republican convention in violation of state law and national Republican Party rules."

Earlier, another Kent judge, George Boucher, said the Kemp-Robertson majority was wrong in stripping some 1,200 party nominees and officeholders of district delegate

seats. That, too, was considered a victory for Bush because veteran party mainliners are largely in his camp.

THE COURT battles aren't over. The Kemp-Robertson people plan to appeal Snow's ruling, and the Kemp people have started a separate case of their own in U.S. District Court.

"My reaction is 'hold the presses,'" said Michael Legg, 2nd District chairman and loyalist for New York Congressman Jack Kemp. "I'm sure we'll be successful on appeal."

But Dickerson, the Oakland chairman who favors Bush, disagreed.

"An appeal won't change the results. Two different judges have ruled with the same results," he said. Anuzis was one of a handful of key Kemp supporters who jumped the procedural ship and supported the Bush position on party rules.

"This (Snow's decision) should leave the Kemp and Bush people in control. We did this to maximize Kemp's delegates," he said.

THE BATTLE began after the August 1986 election for precinct delegates.

Bush had looked upon Michigan as his territory after his big win over Ronald Reagan in the 1980 primary. But Robertson, a television evangelist, recruited many newcomers to the party, denying anyone a clear majority.

Best guess was that Bush had about 45 percent support, Robertson 45 and Kemp the rest.

In what essentially was a "stop Bush" effort, the Kemp group joined the Robertson group early in 1987 to form a bare majority on the Republican State Committee. RSC amended the rules to deny delegate spots to officeholders and party nominees and then rewrote the party rules, only to have the Kent judges overturn those decisions.

NATIONAL POLLS show Bush and Sen. Robert Dole of Kansas leading the pack with Kemp trailing. But Anuzis said Kemp is uninterested in dealing for a vice presidential nomination.

"Many Republicans think Kemp would be a perfect running mate for Bush. The Kemp people are stridently opposed to it," Anuzis said.

The Kemp-Robertson people also are seeking to dump Grand Rapids businessman Peter Secchia as GOP national committeeman. Dickerson said Friday that he had met with Secchia "to go all out to re-elect him as national committeeman."

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— Larry Dickerson  
Oakland GOP chairman



Dickerson said he and Secchia were "very pleased" at the court victories. "It enhances the efforts of the vice president. And when we put our party hat on, it sends a message — power's gonna be at the local level."

## Traffic up, but road deaths dip

Despite heavier traffic, Oakland County drivers managed to hold the line on road fatalities last year.

There were 129 traffic fatalities reported in the county in 1987 compared to 130 in 1986, according to Traffic Improvement Association of Oakland County (TIA).

"We're pleased that our early predictions for an increase in traffic fatalities in 1987 were well off the mark," said Bruce Madsen, executive director of TIA.

"OAKLAND COUNTY'S dramatic business and residential growth, combined with a bright economic forecast, strongly suggested that 1987 would be a year in which we would see a reverse in the trend toward decreasing traffic fatalities," Madsen said.

What happened? An increase in safety belt use and a decrease in drunk driving offenses are presumed to be principal factors in the fact that fatalities remained near the 130 level, even though Oakland saw significant increases in the numbers of vehicles registered, drivers licensed and vehicle miles traveled.

In the late 1980s, traffic fatalities in the county averaged 200 per year. Traffic volumes in the county, the

most accurate barometer of exposure, have since increased by an estimated 90 percent.

"If fatalities had kept pace with miles traveled, we would have recorded over 300 people killed in Oakland County last year instead of 129," Madsen said.

TIA REPORTED that, even though it will be a few weeks before details about last year's fatal accidents are available, it is generally accepted that Oakland County's safety-belt-use rate and its reduction in alcohol-related traffic fatalities are among the highest in the state.

Other reasons given by TIA for recent decreases in traffic deaths include improved safety engineering of Oakland County streets and highways, better emergency and medical services and improvements in vehicle safety design.

There were 1,590 traffic fatalities reported in the State of Michigan last year, a 2.6 percent decrease from the 1,632 reported in 1986.

Traffic death figures for both the state and Oakland County are provisional, with slight increases anticipated due to delayed reporting, Madsen said.

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