

# Lauve challenges Engler

Senate Majority Leader John Engler will face at least one challenger in his bid for this year's Republican gubernatorial nomination.

Tax cut advocate John Lauve announced a bid for the GOP nomination during a Wednesday appearance in Detroit.

Lauve, 49, also ran for governor four years ago.

He has been an automotive engineer with Cadillac Motor Division for 20 years. Before that, he served as a commissioned officer and helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War.

Lauve said he stressed a platform of "no new taxes" and sought to root out corruption and fraud in state government.

As governor, Lauve said, he would prevent Detroit from receiving state money until the city showed greater accountability to taxpayers and would also mandate a performance

audit to show how the money was being spent.

Among his other campaign planks Lauve said he would:

- Create a blue-ribbon panel to study administrative savings for education.

- Advocate statewide testing for student advancement and merit pay and proficiency tests for teachers.

- Support adoption of capital punishment.

- Encourage Michigan to adopt the "Missouri plan" allowing voters to remove judges based on performance.

Lauve lives in Grosse Pointe Woods. He is single.



John Lauve  
GOP challenger

## Durant drums up support

Some might classify Clark Durant as an optimist.

"If the election between him and Bill Schuette was held today, I'd win... easily," a smiling Durant said recently in the Oakland County complex.

The occasion was a press conference called by Roy Rewald, chairman of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners, to announce that he was endorsing Durant, who is challenging Schuette for the Republican nomination for U.S. Senate.

The winner of their August primary will challenge incumbent Democrat Carl Levin, who Republicans and Democrats acknowledge is vulnerable.

"Durant is my kind of candidate," said Rewald. "His approach and attitude are very much like mine. He makes a decision and goes forth with it."

"That approach sometimes makes enemies, but it gets results," Rewald said.

Joining Rewald was Commissioner Donn L. Wolf. R Farmington Hills.

These endorsements were among the first in Oakland County to go to Durant.

In contrast, Schuette, the U.S. Representative in Michigan's 10th District, has been endorsed by numerous GOP notables, including Jim Alexander, chairman of the Oakland

County GOP.

Durant said endorsements from Rewald and other Oakland County Republicans are vital.

"Nobody can win nomination to a statewide office without strong backing in this Republican stronghold."

Asked about the apparent low visibility of his campaign, Durant said he has been working quietly behind the scenes, lining up workers and financial support.

"And I can tell you this," Durant said. "I have more support and I've raised more money than Schuette. That means they both companies would coordinate selling the bonds if we go ahead with the

## Solid waste bonds Voter OK would make sales easier

By Pat Murphy  
Staff writer

Oakland County will find it easier to sell bonds for its \$470 million solid waste program if it is approved at a general election, according to a financial consultant.

It's not clear how much money, if any, Oakland would save if voters approved tax money to back it up, said Philip M. Chen, a managing director of the New York office of Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

Chen appeared at an information meeting before the finance committee of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. It was preparing to sell \$500 million worth of bonds to finance a solid waste program to handle trash over the next two decades — if commissioners decide to go ahead with the project, the largest single expenditure in county history.

Commissioners are evaluating Shearson Lehman Hutton and the Kidder Peabody Co. Inc. as chief underwriters and consultants.

That means they both companies would coordinate selling the bonds if we go ahead with the

project, said G. Commissioner William Caddell, R-Walled Lake, finance committee chairperson.

THE BOARD is expected to approve the two firms as co-underwriters Thursday at its regular meeting.

In discussions with Chen and Russell B. Martin, the county's director of management and budget, commissioners were concerned about the advantages of issuing general obligation (G.O.) or limited obligation (L.O.) bonds.

G.O. bonds — which would require a vote — would obligate the county to raise taxes (lending its full faith and credit) to any level necessary to assure enough revenue to pay off the bonds in the event the waste program did not generate enough money to pay for itself.

L.O. bonds — which do not require a vote — would limit the county's obligation.

Officials assumed the county would use L.O. bonds until earlier this month when County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said he wants voters to decide if they wanted G.O. or L.O. bonds for the project.

Using G.O. could save money, the

executive said, because bond companies would have a better guarantee on their investment and, presumably, would offer a better interest rate.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT was something of a bombshell because commissioners are concerned voters would incorrectly see the vote as a referendum on the solid waste program — rather than a vote on how to finance it.

Putting the issue on the ballot — possibly in November — would delay the project, officials said.

Worse yet, it would subject the project to a possible veto by residents opposed to the solid waste program or its components.

"We still don't know if the executive is going ahead with his proposal to put the issue on the ballot," said Commissioner Marilyn E. Gestling, R-Bloomfield Hills, vice chairman of the finance committee.

"Murphy hasn't given us anything in writing," she said. "So the issue probably won't come up until next month."

"There are still a lot of questions to be resolved."

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