

# Challengers don't see budget as election key

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and what he sees as inequitable tax rates since spring. But he isn't sure how many votes it's going to win him "even though now, all of a sudden, that's become an issue."  
"Ironically, it (discontent with Congress) could work for incumbents," Lankford said. "I'm afraid that people in this district (which includes Southfield, Lathrup Village and Redford Township) are so pleased off they just won't vote."  
Walter O. Briggs IV, a Democrat challenging longtime U.S. Rep. Broomfield, said people are upset with the lack of leadership in Congress. "That should bolster his campaign and that of other challengers, he said."  
BUT HE SAID he wasn't sure how much the highly publicized, month-long battle between Congress and



President George Bush over a deficit reduction plan would affect his race.  
"I do know one thing," Briggs said. "I see Bill able to get lots of air time (on radio and television news and talk shows) over this."  
Briggs, like Lankford, said turning off voters — especially informed voters — was a worry.  
Casey called Briggs an attractive candidate. Briggs is a descendant of the former Detroit Tigers owner and

auto supplier. He is related by marriage to the late Michigan Sen. Phil Hart. Briggs also has the deepest pockets and best political ties of any challenger.  
But he's young (33), running as a Democrat from a Republican family and "has had trouble getting his message across," Casey said.  
Republican Burl Adkins, challenging Ford for the second time in two years, said people in the 15th District (which includes Westland, Garden City, Canton Township and the southern half of Livonia) may be ready "now more than ever" for a change in their representation in Washington.  
Adkins said free mailing privileges and other incumbent-only perks make success difficult for any challenger.

## Some legislators dislike budget

By LeAnne Rogers  
staff writer  
A federal budget package aimed at reducing the federal deficit by nearly \$5 billion over the next five years through tax increases and benefit cuts received divided support among local congressional delegates.  
Both Michigan senators, Democrats Carl Levin and Donald Riegle, voted against the budget reconciliation bill, which received Senate approval on a 55-45 vote. Sen. Carl Levin cited what he

termed a too-heavy burden on middle-income taxpayers without enough taxation on the highest income bracket.  
"The gasoline tax included in this bill represents the wrong tax at the wrong time," said Levin. "It comes on top of the Saddam Hussein gas price hike, which has already pressed the patience and stressed the pocketbook of middle and low income Americans."  
Calling the measure "the Taxpayer Betrayal Act of 1990," U.S. Rep. William Broomfield voiced his opposition to the budget reconciliation bill.

As an alternative to the package, he said the Congress should have voted a one-year across-the-board freeze on all discretionary spending.  
During his 34 years in Congress, Broomfield said he had not seen such a "deep, heart-felt anger at Washington."  
Riegle said "This package does not solve our federal budget problem or our structural deficit problem. It is a first small step in that direction, but it only postpones a far-more-demanding day of fiscal reckoning that we should be facing now."

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## Appointee Harris seeks voter endorsement Nov. 6

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they flunk, they go to jail."  
Minors found guilty of having "open intoxicants" in a car come in for special treatment at sentencing time, Harris said.  
"If they're under 21, I won't sentence them until they bring one or both of their parents into court," he said. "I want the parents to be aware of the problem."  
HARRIS CAME under fire shortly after his appointment when he replaced two court employees — officer Howard Aldrich and reporter Cindy Hage — with people of his own choosing.  
Aldrich was replaced first by Harris' son Patrick, a college student, and then by Robert Mitchell, who is on disability leave from the Farmington Police Department.  
Harris said he wanted a uniformed "male presence" in his courtroom. Christine Snellgrove, Harris' law firm secretary of 25 years, replaced Hage, who was two months away from being vested in a pension with the city of Farmington Hills — although it would have taken many years of service before she could

have collected any money.  
Snellgrove is no longer at the court. The current court reporter is Sandra Drogosch.  
Those firings, called insensitive by some court-watchers, have had a polarizing effect in the community. People took sides for or against the judge. But Harris said he doesn't regret his actions.  
"Yes sir, I would do it again," he said. "I would have a uniformed officer in the court and I would have my own people. A judge, by statute, employs his own court clerk and reporter," he said.  
"When I came in, I did what every other judge does — I brought my own people in."  
If a new judge is elected on Nov. 6, he'll probably bring in his own people, Harris said.  
ANOTHER ISSUE, Harris said, is the "burgeoning court docket, which is growing and growing."

When a second judge was authorized in January 1975, Harris said, the court handled 9,000 cases a year. Now there are more than 38,000 cases a year in the 47th.  
One answer could be the addition of a third judge — and Harris said he favors that plan. However, both cities, known as control units, would have to approve it.  
Both city councils finance the district court, but are not involved in the day-to-day operations.  
Harris, who earned an undergraduate degree from Michigan State University and a juris doctor from Wayne State, said his "broad range of experience" as a trial lawyer has

been good training for the bench.  
"I've tried cases going back to the old justice of the peace days," he said, "all the way up to the Michigan Supreme Court. I've worked in the federal system from the U.S. Court to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals in a case that went ultimately to the Supreme Court."  
Harris, who is retired from the Marine Corps with the rank of colonel in the reserves, claims endorsements from the local Public Service and Command Officers associations, as well as the Women's Lawyer's Association and the Polish American Congress.  
He was appointed to the Oakland

County Road Commission and served 1971-77. Another appointment put him on the county Parks and Recreation Commission from 1975-77. He made an unsuccessful bid for a Congressional seat in 1970.  
Harris and wife Elaine are the parents of three grown sons. In his spare time, he enjoys golf, working in his yard and playing with his two grandchildren.  
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