

# Headlee sues state officials

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

Tax foe Richard Headlee has filed suit against the Michigan Secretary of State and the Board of Canvassers over the way petition signatures are counted — or certified.

In a suit filed Wednesday, the Farmington Hills businessman challenged the grounds on which the board of canvassers disqualified about 15,000 of the signatures obtained during a petition drive by Taxpayers United for Assessment Cuts.

The organization filed a petition last fall demanding that a proposal to limit property tax assessments be placed on a statewide ballot.

Disqualifications by the Secretary of State — not overturned by the Board of Canvassers — meant the petition drive did not have enough valid signatures.

They left the petition drive in limbo, Headlee said in a press conference Wednesday at the Farmington Hills office of the Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co.

But more importantly they deprived voters of a legitimate avenue for redress, the suit contends.

"MANY OF THE practices used by the Secretary of State to discard signatures are unconstitutional restrictions on the peoples' right to petition their government," Headlee said.

"For example, over 3,000 signatures of bona fide, registered voters were discarded because they did not check a box indicating whether they lived in a 'city' or 'township'."

"Yet in many cases, some

## Mobil dealers aid Red Cross

The American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan will be conducting a fund-raising project Friday and Saturday, June 21-22 with Mobil Oil Dealers in the Metro Detroit area.

Participating Mobil dealers will donate four cents per gallon, for all fuel sold during the promotion, to support the Red Cross scholarship program to train nurse assistants.

The following are Mobil gas stations in this area of Oakland County that are participating.

- Bloomfield Hills: Woodward & Long Lake.
- Farmington: Haggerty & Grand River; Grand River & I-696; 12 Mile and Middlebelt.
- Rochester Hills: Walton & Adams.
- Southfield: Southfield & 13 Mile; Nine Mile & Lodge Freeway; 11 Mile & Greenfield.
- Troy: Maple & Stephenson Hwy.; 14 Mile & John R. Troy.
- Walled Lake: Maple & Decker.
- West Bloomfield: Orchard Lake & Northwestern.

citizens wrote the name of the city or township (in which they lived) next to the box," Headlee said.

"Such unfair and arbitrary conduct is simply outrageous, and we're asking the court to stand up for these peoples' civil rights," he continued.

The suit, filed in Ingham County Circuit Court, also contends state officials use other methods that unfairly work against citizens by arbitrarily discarding petition signatures.

Headlee claims without such arbitrary disqualifications, the petitions submitted by Taxpayers United last fall would have had more than the 191,728 signatures required to put a proposition on the statewide ballot to limit increases in property tax assessment.

OTHER PLANTIFFS in the suit are David Beck, Mary Milanowski and James Barrett, president of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce.

Beck is a Lansing force worker whose signature was ruled invalid because he did not check the "city" box on the petition.

# Teen drinking House, Senate want partyers held accountable

By Tim Richard  
staff writer

**Teen hotel partying would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.**

A new law to curb teen partying in hotels is on its way to Gov. John Engler's signature, and two new drunk driving bills are nearing passage in the state House of Representatives.

The House voted 96-2 Tuesday to concur in Senate amendments to a bill prohibiting persons from renting of hotel rooms for teen drinking, use of drugs or damage to furnishings.

The only argument was over whether to make the bill effective Jan. 1 or next March 31. Lawmakers picked the Jan. 1 date despite warnings it would take the law enforcement system time to gear up.

TEEN HOTEL partying would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail and a \$500 fine.

Violators could be ordered to pay restitution not only for damage but for lost rentals during repairs. The Senate amended the bill to require that, even if teens made

prompt restitution, they still could be prosecuted.

Operators of hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts will be required to post notices of the law near the registration desk or in each room.

Lawmakers acted amid growing complaints each year of drinking at high school graduation parties, particularly in metropolitan suburbs.

Supporters included the State Police, the travel association and the Radisson Hotel chain.

Sponsor was Rep. Joseph Palmara, D-Wyandotte.

Bill 4724 limiting the ability of circuit judges to lift the Secretary of State's suspensions, revocation or denial of drivers' licenses.

That bill also calls on the University of Michigan Transportation Research Institute to evaluate the impact of mandatory license suspensions.

It requires the Secretary of State to make an annual report in drunk driving cases, convictions and acquittals, license sanctions, average fines, jail terms and community service requirements.

Sponsor Perry Bullard, D-Ann Arbor, had his bill tie-barred to a companion measure, HB 4828, sponsored by Rep. Michael Nye, R-Litchfield.

AS 48 MEMBERS gradually left the chamber Tuesday, the House delayed action on an amendment to require two days in jail for a second drunk driving conviction.

Nye opposed mandatory jail. "Many would prefer jail time to community service," he said, because their neighbors would see them picking up roadside trash on weekends.

An attorney who handles 100 drunk driving cases a year, Nye said the embarrassment of community service would be a greater deterrent than jail.

The House set aside the bill after bogging down in an argument over whether to take a roll call on the jail time amendment.

Nye's bill sets up two new felonies: drunk driving the causes an accident resulting in death (15 years) and drunk driving causing a permanent injury.

Two companion measures are making their way through the Senate. SB 314 and 315 will stiffen arrest and testing procedures and allowing more license revocations.

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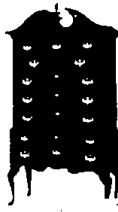
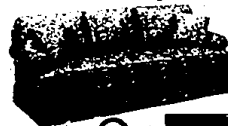
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