

How We Rate State, U.S. House Candidates

legislature

congressional races

33rd: Young For Schools

State Rep. Richard A. Young, Democrat of Dearborn Heights, deserves another term in the legislature. He gets our nod over Republican challenger James T. Brady, also of Dearborn Heights.

The 33rd District currently represented by Young includes the southeast corner of Livonia and the portion of Westland between Inkster, Farmington, Warren and Joy Roads.

Young has shown himself particularly sensitive to the problems of school districts within

his area. He is concerned about the pressing problems of low-valuation districts and their position in the overall state program of aid to education.

Young's experience and growing legislative skill make him more than a match for Brady, whose school board record indicates a consistent concern for education in his own right.

Young has fought for a better break for suburban schools, and he should have another term to continue his battle.

34th: Bennett, On Balance

Incumbent John Bennett (D-Redford Township) faces a sharp challenge this year in the 34th State Representative District from Ron Rice (R-Redford Township).

Seeking his third term in Lansing, Bennett has compiled a good record of service to his district, coupled with some genuinely important contributions to Michigan's laws.

Particularly worthwhile has been his trail-blazing work on behalf of the state's new implied consent law, by which breathalyzer tests on suspected drunk drivers were legalized. Police sources report it has helped re-

move from the roads some 1,000 drunk drivers per month since its passage, and Bennett deserves a lot of credit for his work.

Rice has run an energetic campaign. We concur with his positions supporting the Boundary Commission bill and the state Open Occupancy law, although his plan to change the tax system to support education seems poorly thought through. His primary attack on Bennett—fiscal irresponsibility—sounds more like repetition of the party line than a carefully conceived position.

On balance we favor two terms of experience and service, and endorse Bennett for another term.

35th: Stempien A Mover

When Louis E. Schmidt (R-Livonia) defeated incumbent State Rep. Marvin R. Stempien (D-Livonia) in the GOP landslide in 1966, a lot of people looked forward to the kind of thoughtful and balanced job that won Schmidt good marks while he was Clarenceville Superintendent of Schools.

Now, in 1968, anticipation has turned into disappointment.

After two years, it's hard to judge Schmidt's performance for the 35th District (covering Livonia and Northville) as anything more than lackluster. Based on the 1965-66 record for which he was judged the outstanding freshman representative by the Lan-

sing press corps, Stempien merits another two years in the state capital.

Schmidt is a gentleman of the first order, but he has failed to project himself as a legislator to his district. Although busy behind the scenes, his record doesn't reflect the kind of imagination or initiative that Stempien's did. Stempien was largely responsible for a whole batch of good bills while in Lansing, ranging from consumer legislation to regulations for motocyclists to reduction of the size of the clumsy Wayne County Board of Supervisors.

Stempien deserves a new term in Lansing to build on an old but outstanding record.

36th: Tierney Courageous

State Rep. James Tierney, Democrat of Garden City, should be re-elected to a third term.

Tierney, whose 36th House District includes all of Garden City, Plymouth, Plymouth Township, Farmington Township, and the West and area north of Cherry Hill and west of Farmington Road, is a stubborn man with a lot of personal courage.

You may not agree with his fight against the state open housing bill or his posture on tax reform, but at least you know he has a position.

Tierney has worked hard to serve his constituents.

His Republican opponent, Harold Bergquist of Garden City, is alarmingly uninformed about the issues and unsure about what he would do if elected. His emphasis on "law and order" entirely ignores the causes of crime; his understanding of state finances is shaky.

Although we have disagreements with Tierney's positions on some issues, we feel that on the whole he is worthy of another term in Lansing.

64th: Baker Diligent

In the 64th District which includes Farmington, incumbent Republican Raymond Baker gets our nod.

We aren't happy with Baker's performance during his eight years in the State House and are even less content with his campaign platform of "re-elect me because I have eight years experience."

But the alternative, in the person of Democrat Leonard Baruch, is even less appealing. This is the second time out for Baruch, as he faced Baker in 66. His campaign is nil.

We think that Baker has been a diligent, if uninspiring, state representative. He has spent many hours of hard work as a member of the Conservation and Recreation Committee.

Baker's main purpose seems to have been to avoid controversy. He caved in to pressure and voted against the open occupancy bill, but never had much to say about the measure publicly.

However, he still makes the effort to come to Farmington to ask for votes. He has our support simply because he is the better of the two.

19th: Frink Is Humane, Imaginative

Incumbent 19th District Congressman Jack McDonald (R-Redford Township) will probably be re-elected to another term next Tuesday. It's a Republican year, and challenger Gary R. Frink (D-Pontiac) has had big money and organizational problems with his campaign.

Despite this, we do not think McDonald's election would benefit this district, which includes Livonia, Redford Township and the Farmington community. Our endorsement goes to Frink primarily because of his humane and imaginative grasp of the real problems of our society, backed up by a top-rate education and good governmental background in Washington.

McDonald's votes in Washington were quite conservative in the first session of the 89th Congress (against the rat control bill, amazingly, and against funds for policemen to get university training) and much more liberal in the second session (for open housing, model cities aid, and rent supplements).

In response to Frink's attacks on his inability to get things done for his district, McDonald claims that during his term, the 19th

District received the second largest amount of federal funds ever. However, he can't clearly distinguish what percentage is owing to the spade work of former Congressman Billie Farnum.

Frink has a clear grasp of the need to get the war in Vietnam over and start tackling our real social needs. We think he ought to have a chance to put his ideas into practice in Congress.

2nd: Vivian Precise

Second District Congressman Marvin Esch (R-Ann Arbor) has been a pretty good Congressman. Former Congressman Weston E. Vivian (D-Ann Arbor) was a better Congressman.

We endorse Vivian. Esch has talked and sometimes voted in a progressive manner: For open housing; for air and water pollution control; for vocational education.

However, he voted against increased funds for the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and against the Model Cities Bill (until he found out that Ann Arbor was scheduled to get some of the money.)

Behind all the nice-sounding

talk, we feel that at heart Esch's positions are fuzzy and diffuse. Vivian is quite different. During the campaign, he prepared a set of impressive position papers taking definite and precise stands on key issues.

During his term in Congress, he was well known for clear and imaginative thinking: It was his idea which reformed tax incentives for industries making anti-air and water pollution investments. He tried to shift some wasted funds out of the space program and into pure research. He was one of the best Congressmen in Washington.

Vivian deserves another chance to represent the 2nd District in Congress.

15th: Ford Too Good

Congressman William Ford, a Democrat seeking his third term from the 15th District, should be returned to Washington.

The Taylor lawyer, whose district includes Garden City and Westland, is opposed by Republican John F. Boyle of Westland in Tuesday's election.

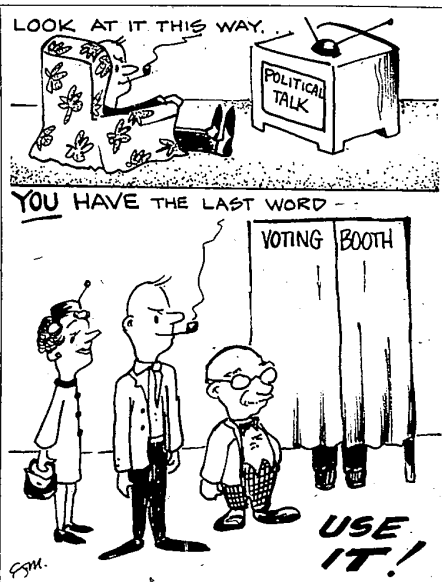
Ford deserves a third term on the basis of his fine legislative record in the field of education and good service to the 15 communities in his district.

He was important in the passage of the monumental 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and in designing the 1968 Vocational Education Amendments which for the first time seem to offer a national solution to the pressing and important problem of vocational education for youth.

FORD'S RECORD has been characterized by developing mastery of the legislative methods of Congress and his ability to work hard for his district. He obtained a \$43,000 rebate for Garden City after a two-year hassle on an urban renewal program technically, and he seems to be on the verge of success in getting the Postmaster General to establish a separate post office for Westland.

His opponent has run an unexpectedly hard and interesting campaign. Boyle is bright, personable and articulate; he has not hesitated to attack Ford on various issues, although sometimes in a somewhat uninformed way.

He has not convinced us that Ford and his good record should be dumped by the voters of the 15th District.



Proposal No. 5 Needs More Work

PROPOSAL NO. 5: Proposed amendment to permit the election of members of the Legislature during their term of office to another state office.

Sec. 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution now prohibits the election as well as the appointment of members of the Legislature during their term of office to another state office.

Shall this section be amended to permit their election to another office? Yes () No (x)

This is not a bad proposal, but it's an incomplete one and needs some improvement.

The problem it seeks to solve is this: Nearly every public official in Michigan can seek higher office during his existing term. The exceptions are our senators and representatives in the Legislature.

The Michigan Constitution prevents legislators from running for or accepting appointment to another state office during the term for which they were elected. Senators' terms are four years, representatives' two years. Even a legislator who resigned couldn't accept another post until his term had expired.

Proposal No. 4 would repeal that constitutional prohibition and give legislators the same right to improve their political lots in life that most other public officials have.

WHAT'S WRONG with that?

Nothing—except that there's no provision for replacing the legislator short of an expensive and bothersome special election.

If a governor were to be elected president, there would automatically be a lieutenant governor to take his place. If the secretary of state should die or quit, the governor could appoint his successor. If a member of your school board or city council leaves, the remaining members can usually appoint a successor. It's generally quick and easy.

Michigan voters are already bothered with a bewildering variety of federal, state, municipal, school district, college district, village, millage and other elections each year. We shouldn't have to have two more special elections—a primary and a final—to fill the vacancies of state legislators who run for higher office.

The desire for this proposed amendment arose when a state senator wanted to run for a circuit judge in Saginaw County. Proposal No. 5 stacks of special purpose legislation—a benefit to lawyer-legislators who want to run for the increasing number of circuit and probate judgeships that are being created.

PROPOSAL No. 5 would have been more palatable if it had also provided for a fast, easy way to fill legislative vacancies.

There are many ways it could be done. The governor could make an appointment, as he did with Constitutional Convention vacancies; the Legislature itself could appoint someone, as school boards do; or perhaps the governor could pick someone from a list of three persons proposed by the district's predominant political party.

Proposal No. 5 is only a half-way measure. It should be defeated Nov. 5 and a more thorough solution offered in 1970.

—Observer Newspapers

The car on the expressway had a Wallace for President sign completely blocking the driver's rear vision. Is this typical of the short-sighted view of the Wallace supporters?

SENSE 'N' NONSENSE

A Garden City political candidate revealed some interesting history on the affect of the AFL-CIO's Committee on Political Education endorsements on mayoral candidates.

COPE recently endorsed Mayor Timothy Murphy for a second two-year term.

A city council candidate pointed out that in the past three elections, the mayor candidate with the COPE endorsement was defeated.

The one thing that is more humorous than a motion picture title is two unrelated titles on the same marquee.

Two good examples are now on display at a Westland theater which houses three separate viewing audiences.

The double-feature at one of the shows is "The Late Blossom," followed by "Wait Until Dark."

The best titles, however, are the side-by-side titles "The Odd Couple," and "Rachel, Rachel."

Very few American soldiers are ever assigned "overseas." Many are assigned "overseas," but few have to cross two oceans to reach their new post. The armed services and press very seldom refer to the singular when referring to a soldier, sailor or Marine going to Vietnam, and insist on talking of "overseas duty." If a GI assigned to England got orders for Vietnam, he conceivably could cross the Atlantic to the States for leave before crossing the Pacific for Vietnam. In this case, he would have been given an overseas assignment.

The Observer Editorials

OBSERVER NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Serving the communities of:

LIVONIA PLYMOUTH REDFORD TOWNSHIP
GARDEN CITY WESTLAND FARMINGTON

Philip H. Power, Publisher

BY CARRIER (Monthly Rate): WESTLAND: GARDEN CITY: 30¢
LIVONIA: PLYMOUTH: REDFORD: FARMINGTON: 50¢
BY NEWSSTAND: 15¢ a copy

Member of
Michigan Press
Association

CERTIFIED ADVERTISING
CIRCULATION

Member of
Suburban Press
Foundation

Published by Observer Newspapers, Inc., 271 S. Main
Street, Box 200, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

When
Name-Dropping...
mention us, people
will know you have good taste.

Hillside Inn

CLOSED SUNDAYS

Lunches
11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Dinners
5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

CHUCK MATSON



- Group Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Pension Plans
- Life Insurance
- Annuities

NEW YORK LIFE Insurance Company

17000 West 8 Mile Road
Southfield, 356-9480