

Raczkowski

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nated fund from part of the earnings of the state's rainy day fund, which now stands at about \$1 billion.

That fund has grown despite tax cuts, a trend Raczkowski said should continue and allow the state to improve infrastructure without further taxes.

Although he has backed off of a position that Michigan should become a right to work state, Raczkowski said he would still like to see the state use the prevailing wage standard when bidding out work. That would save the state millions of dollars, he said.

"In a right to work state, you'd have to have two payroll systems, and that would be a mess,"

he said.

The Eastern Michigan University graduate said he still favors election reforms that include limiting political action committee (PAC) contributions to individual candidates. He accepted several PAC contributions but said he has only accepted money from groups who have an issue he supports.

"I would not accept money from a group whose position I don't support," he said, adding that would be unethical. "You've got to take baby steps. This is something that is going to take time."

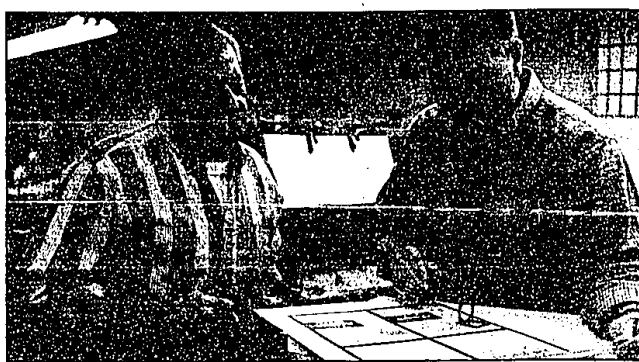
Raczkowski said he plans to use money from PACs to pay for and staff a local office, rather

than have it come from state money.

Failing that, he said he would pay for the office out of his own salary if elected, and also plans on paying for one monthly mailing himself.

Raczkowski said voters should keep in mind that Republican reforms such as Project Zero to reduce welfare rolls; Proposal A, which reduced property taxes; and tougher crime legislation have all been Republican initiatives.

"We're trying to make life miserable for criminals in prison so that they don't want to be there," he said. "Our best camp has a recidivism rate of 16 percent."



Proofreaders: State House candidate Andrew Raczkowski and Jim Rotunda, left, owner of Rotunda Printing Co., go over a page at Raczkowski's printing business.

Ice arena

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Rice said the younger players have a chance to play and that will increase the percentage of residents each year as those residents move into the older divisions.

There are more house and travel teams this year and a tournament for house teams is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend, Nelson said.

Adult hockey has also prospered, and the learn-to-skate program, which is essential to

building ice skating and hockey programs, stands at 700 students this year, Nelson said.

"The figure skating program has maintained," said Val LeBlanc, program coordinator for the arena. "Our learn to skate sessions are doing well and we've added an additional session as well as a hockey clinic."

LeBlanc said on May 2-4 the arena will host its first show featuring Farmington Hills figure skaters and students in the cur-

rent learn-to-skate program.

She said this year some sessions have been lengthened to 60 minutes from 30 to help new skaters develop faster.

Nelson said the city council has asked for a report on how space originally planned as a restaurant could be converted into an activity area for the city's decentralized youth program, which already uses space at the Costick Center and the YMCA. Power Middle School students could use the space for after-school activities.

Nelson said his staff was also looking at what dry-floor activities the arena could host during the summer of 1998. The arena hosted special movie nights, a boxing match and other events this past summer, but the city council followed a recommendation to not have dry-floor activities next summer and decide

about 1998 next year.

"It's possible that we'll have dry-floor activities in 1998," said Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi.

Although there is easily enough demand for ice time to add a third surface, which the arena was designed to accommodate if necessary, Vagnozzi said the council wants to wait and see what effect the new ice arena in Plymouth and a proposed one in Novi will have on numbers at the Hills rink.

Although the Hills arena has been self supporting, a capital fund will be needed to pay for improvements in the restaurant, such as carpeting and a bathroom.

Nelson said an expanded hockey program in the spring will likely fill up.

"We won't have any problem filling the ice," he said.

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