

STATE CAPITOL CAPSULES

3 parties qualify

Michigan voters will have their choice between three political parties in the Aug. 4 primary and four on the Nov. 3 ballot, the Secretary of State's office has announced.

Ross Perot's Reform Party joins the Republican and Democratic parties in being able to pick candidates in the statewide primary. That's because Perot's party received more than 5 percent of the 1996 vote.

The Libertarian Party will be back on the Nov. 5 ballot but must pick its candidates in party conventions, at a time and place to be announced. Libertarians, dominated in recent years by gun owners groups, topped 1 percent of the 1996 vote and did not need to file petitions for a ballot spot.

Any other party hoping to be on the Nov. 5 ballot must file a "new political party" petition with the Secretary of State by 4 p.m. July 16. Petitions need at least 30,891 signatures. In addition, other candidates

without a political party may get on the ballot by filing qualifying petitions by 4 p.m. July 16. They may use this process to run for three state administrative board positions — governor, secretary of state and attorney general; U.S. representative; state senator and state representative; four education boards — State Board of Education, University Michigan regent, Michigan State University trustee and Wayne State University governor (two positions on each board); and two nonpartisan Supreme Court justice posts.

These unaffiliated candidates for statewide office must file at least 6,733 and not more than 30,891 petition signatures. Petitions must include at least 100 signatures from each of at least eight congressional districts.

For other information on any election issue, call the Secretary of State Bureau of Elections at (617) 373-2640.

Funds for Oakland

Oakland County International Airport in Pontiac will receive a

\$1 million grant to acquire land for approach protection.

It was among \$12.5 million in grants to 15 airport projects statewide announced by the Michigan Aeronautics Commission.

'Soft money' hit

State Rep. Frank Fitzgerald is targeting "soft money" ads in the 1998 campaign process.

"Soft money" is used to support issues and isn't subject to limits and reporting laws. "Issue" ads are often used in vicious attacks on candidates.

Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, is preparing a bill to require a disclaimer listing the group paying for the commercial. The issue is before a bipartisan, bicameral group examining state campaign spending.

Appointments

Gov. John Engler has appointed

ed:

■ Michael Helmer of Bloomfield Hills to the state Board of Osteopathic Medicine, which is responsible for licensure and examination of persons entering osteopathic medicine and surgery. Helmer is president of the Patrick Foundation and corporate development director for Henry Ford Health System. He will represent the general public for a term ending Dec. 31, 2001.

■ William J. O'Neil of Walled Lake to the Board of Mechanical Rules, which recommends rules for heating, cooling and refrigeration systems. He is president of W.J. O'Neil Co. of Livonia and vice president of the Metro Detroit Plumbing & Mechanical Contractors Association. His term expires Oct. 1, 1999.

Smietanka runs

Fitzgerald, an announced candidate for the GOP nomination

for attorney general, is assured of a well-financed rival.

John Smietanka, the 1994 nominee, is running again and has appointed pizza magnate Tom Monaghan as his finance chairman.

Smietanka is a former Berrien County prosecutor and for U.S. attorney for western Michigan.

Funds for Clinton

Clinton County Friend of the Court is in line for a \$100,000 state grant to promote access and visitation of children in rural areas. Its work will be a pilot project for other counties.

Clinton got more than one-fourth of the \$380,000 for 10 counties that applied for and got the grants.

The county will develop a video and resource materials in partnership with the state-level Friend of the Court Association, according to an announcement

from Gov. John Engler. The video will focus on single parents and paternity establishment.

Its use will be piloted in Oakland County and may be expanded to other parts of the state.

Jaye heads panel

Newly-elected Sen. David Jaye, R-Macomb County, will chair a new standing committee on Hunting, Fishing and Agriculture. The appointment was made by Senate majority leader Dick Posthumus of Alto.

Billing himself as "Lansing's top hunting, fishing and gun rights advocate," Jaye said he would introduce a 25-bill package to promote hunting, fishing and gun rights.

It would include allowing all law-abiding Michigan residents to carry a concealed pistol and a ban on Indian gill nets as a condition of their operating casinos ("no fish, no chips").

3 OCC trustee seats open for June election

It's the year to think elections at Oakland Community College.

Candidates for three positions on the board of trustees have until 4 p.m. Monday, April 6, to file nominating petitions. They will need at least 50 and no more than 200 signatures of registered voters in the district, which is roughly contiguous with the county.

Petition forms are available from, and should be filed with, Pamela Dorris, deputy board secretary, in the chancellor's office, Bee Administrative Center, 2480 Opdyke, Bloomfield Hills.

The election is Monday, June 8.

Three trustees' terms expire this year: Anne Scott of Royal Oak, Janice Simmons of Rochester Hills and Judith Wiser, board chair from West Bloomfield. Scott and Simmons have completed one term; Wiser, two.

Already announced is Rochelle Heyniger, a student from Rochester Hills, who served a year as the student body's board representative. Heyniger has launched a high-profile campaign.

Seven trustees serve staggered, six-year terms without pay. Terms of those elected this year will run from July 1, 1998, to June 30, 2004. The board meets monthly at 7 p.m., usually on the third Monday, at the Bee Center in Bloomfield Hills.

The board hires and evaluates the chancellor, the chief executive officer, sets the budget and tuition rates, and establishes college policies.

OCC elections are held at the same time and places as school board elections. OCC elections, however, are held in even-numbered years rather than every year.

\$5.2 million in work

Major "deferred maintenance" projects will show up on three campuses after the board on Jan. 26 approved, 7-0, authority for its construction management company to make design and construction contracts.

Total value of the contracts is estimated at \$5.24 million. Funds will come from the special property tax of 0.8 mills for seven years approved by voters

in mid-1995.

Largest is \$3.88 million for renovation of Building A on the Orchard Ridge Campus in Farmington Hills. Work will include bringing it up to codes (Americans with Disabilities Act and Indoor Air Quality Act), "flexible and multiple-use space to support enthusiastic learning with enhanced academic courses and programs," according to an administration memo.

Some 29,450 square feet of classroom space will be reconfigured at \$104 per square foot — a figure Chancellor Richard Thompson said compares favorably to similar area projects.

Other Orchard Ridge projects: ■ Renovation of toilet rooms in Building M to comply with barrier-free design law and the federal ADA — \$82,600.

■ Mechanical pipe insulation renovation to remove asbestos in Building E — \$304,400.

■ Electrical improvements for two computer rooms — \$99,500. The Royal Oak Campus will get roof replacements to prevent water damage — \$795,100. "Remedial repair work is not feasible and will not extend the life

of the roofs," said the administration memo. Covered will be Buildings A, B, C, D and E and the powerhouse. Per-foot cost is estimated at \$7.

The criminal justice building (J) on the Auburn Hills Campus will get digital temperature controls estimated at \$82,300.

Environmental jobs

The board also approved two asbestos abatement contracts for the Highland Lakes Campus, Union Lake.

HBC, Inc., will do the work in the Highland Hall crawl space (\$33,000) and in High Oaks Hall (\$44,300).

New assignment

Faculty member Sarah Keidan, of the Orchard Ridge economics and political science department, has been reassigned until Aug. 30 as interim dean for academic and student services.

Chancellor Richard Thompson said she will fill in for David Dodge, who is working on a technology project. By juggling existing staff, Thompson said, the college won't need new hires.

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