

Party Convention Process At Work

Political wheels started rolling this week toward the election of state and national convention delegates.

County and district conventions for the major parties began this week to elect delegates to state conventions. National convention delegates will be chosen at state conventions.

Republican county conventions were all held yesterday (Wednesday), and

Democratic conventions are scheduled for the weekend.

THE SCHEDULE FOR Democratic conventions is: 2nd Congressional District (Plymouth City and Township) 8 p.m. Friday, June 2; Central Junior High School, 650 Church, Plymouth. 15th Congressional District (Westland, Garden City, Canton) 7:15 p.m. Friday, June 2; Region 1E (UAW) Hall, 9550 Telegraph, Taylor. 18th Congressional District (Southfield City and Township, Lathrup Village) 2 p.m. Saturday, June 3; Oakland

County Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

19th-Oakland Congressional District (Farmington City and Township) 9:30 a.m. Saturday, June 3; Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

19th Wayne Congressional District (Livonia, Redford Township) 7 p.m. Friday, June 2; Pierce Junior High School, 2545 Orangetown near West Chicago and Beech Daily, Redford Township.

An Observer Roundup

The busing issue helped put 51 per cent of Michigan voters in Alabama Gov. George Wallace's back pocket last week-but so did a massive Republican crossover.

As near as can be estimated 62 per cent of the Republicans from Observerland crossed party lines to vote for the Democratic presidential hopeful.

Primary results from Farmington City and Township, Plymouth City and Township, Garden City, Westland, Redford Township, Livonia, Southfield and Lathrup Village indicate that either few Republicans voted or that few Republicans voted in their party's primary.

Suburbanite Switch

GOP Crossover Rate 62 Pct.

primarily that Republicans voted with their party for secretary of state in 1970.

But Michigan voters in general have displayed considerable ticket splitting in voting patterns in recent years, contributing to the election of two Republican governors in a heavily Democratic state.

Also, the 1970 figures do not reflect the large number of 18 to 20 year-old voters that have since been added to the voting polls. In Redford Township, this percentage is set at 10 per cent of the total vote.

EVEN PREDOMINATELY Republican areas such as

Plymouth and Farmington gave considerable support to Austin in 1970.

But assuming that the secretary of state vote in 1970 is the best gauge available, the crossover hits well over half of the party members who voted in the primary.

Some of the Republican votes could have been directed at Sen. George McGovern (D-South Dakota), but Wallace's large portion of the votes, despite Democratic Party opposition, indicates he reaped the largest portion of the crossover.

One Democratic official said the results indicate

"a complete destruction of the primary system."

He and other officials suggest that a party registration system would give an accurate primary vote. Some states already use party registration for voting in the primary giving persons up to six months prior to the election time to change their registration.

BECAUSE NATIONAL convention delegates are elected in proportion to the vote candidates receive in the primary, a party registration system would assure that delegates are elected to represent their party and not the opposing party.

The results from the Observerland community show that the largest crossover of Republicans was in Garden City, where, if the same method is used, 70.6 per cent of the Republicans crossed over.

The crossover from the other communities is as follows: Redford Township, 69.4 per cent; Westland, 68.9 per cent; Livonia, 66.3 per cent; Plymouth Township, 58.4 per cent; Southfield, 57 per cent; Lathrup 54 per cent; Farmington Township, 52 per cent; City of Farmington 51.8 per cent; and City of Plymouth, 42.3 per cent.

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School Aid Bill Draws 2 'Nays'

The \$1.1 billion school aid bill passed the State Senate last week with opposition from two local senators, including Sen. William Faust (D-Westland) who is on the education committee.

Sen. David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) also voted against the bill. Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth) voted for it and Sen. Daniel Cooper (D-Oak Park) didn't vote.

FAUST SAID he voted

against it because he had hoped the Legislature would hold off action on the apportionment bill until it provided some assurance that property tax reform would be on the August or November election ballot.

"I thought the most powerful weapon we had was to not pass this bill," he said. Faust said he opposed final action on the education bill until there was some provision for letting voters decide on the method of financing education, which is currently the property tax.

Other weaknesses exist in the bill, he said, citing the lack of provision for funding programs for the mentally and physically handicapped students.

TO DETERMINE the crossover, the Observer looked up voting patterns for each locality in the 1970 election. Assuming that the vote for secretary of state is the most truly partisan vote, it was found that Republican candidate Emil Lockwood reaped 42.56 per cent of the votes cast in Observerland and Democrat Richard Austin got 57.46 per cent.

But in the May primary, only 16.46 per cent of the Observerland votes cast were Republican. The percentage of Republican crossover can be estimated by dividing the 1970 percentage into the 1972 figure and subtracting from 100 per cent. Using this method, the crossover appears to be 62 per cent.

A number of assumptions are made in this method,

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