

Oakland Districts Tossed Out

By JACKIE KLEIN

PONTIAC
A Republican-designed reapportionment plan for Oakland County Commission districts has been declared unconstitutional by the Michigan Court of Appeals.

The plan has been sent back to the county reapportionment commission for a re-draft guaranteeing equal population among districts.

"Population figures were not verified according to the 1970 census," says Oakland

County Board of Commissioners Chairman Lawrence Pernick (D-Southfield). "The reapportionment commission has been directed by the court to meet daily and submit a verbatim transcript of proceedings."

"Population variances must be verified by the county planning department, and the new plan and transcript must be filed with the Michigan Court of Appeals by June 3. If county Democrats do not concur with another GOP-designed plan, they can object and file a new appeal," Pernick says.

State guidelines say a plan "as nearly of equal population as possible" must be adopted.

OAKLAND Democrats filed a lawsuit in April against the Republican controlled commission charging "un-

constitutional and inexecutable political gerrymandering."

The lawsuit, filed in the Michigan Court of Appeals by Morley Winograd, chairman of the Oakland County Democratic Committee, centered on claims the 32 Republican dominated commission adopted a 31-district plan that ignored constitutional guidelines which require population equality among districts.

The approved plan had a 127-voter variance among districts compared to the 12-voter variance proposed by Democrats on the apportionment commission, according to Winograd. The suit claimed the panel "intentionally selected an inferior population plan for political advantage."

Democrats say the approved plan could result in

Republicans capturing as many as 20 seats in the 31 districts. Democrats currently hold a 16-15 numerical advantage on the county board.

The plan eventually adopted will be used for county commission elections beginning with the August primary and November general election and will continue to be used until the next census in 1980.

"The appeals court found many errors in the plan and determined the job was not done properly," Pernick said. "We are glad the plan was not upheld but it doesn't necessarily mean there will be too many changes."

PERNICK has said he will seek other judicial office unless the plan is overturned. "I don't choose to run in a district where I can't win and

which will probably vote Republican," he said.

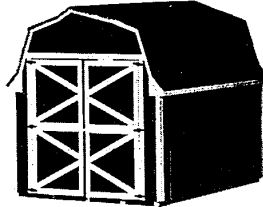
The GOP dismisses Southfield's Democratic strength by dividing it among proposed districts running into Republican Farmington and Bloomfield.

It also substitutes Republican strongholds in Lathrup Village and Bingham Farms for Pernick's Democratic support in Southfield and Oak Park. A new vacant district is carved out of parts of east central Southfield.

Southfield, currently part of four commission districts, would be part of seven if the GOP plan were adopted.

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Candidate Crosses Dates

Confusion over the filing date has narrowed the Clarenceville Board of Education trustee race to eight.

Lawrence Kopelman, 18-year-old U-M student, was out of town and failed to file his petitions with the school board office by the 4 p.m. May 15 deadline.

"He had the dates mixed up," commented his mother, Mrs. Arthur Kopelman, of 20019 Maplewood. "We're sorry," she added.

Two terms expire in the June 12 school board race. One is the term of Ray Chaiken, veteran board member, who will seek a fourth term. The other seat is held by Dr.

Martin T. Wechsler, currently the board president, who announced earlier that he will not seek re-election.

Candidates are: Chaiken, Mrs. Sharon May, Mrs. Marilyn Rowens, Thomas Taaffe, Gary R. Serin, Mrs. Gertrude Walsh, Roy Whitener and Richard J. Wood.

Allocation To C'ville Is \$8.90

A preliminary tax rate of \$8.90 per \$1,000 on state equalized valuation has been set for the Clarenceville School District, according to the Wayne County Allocation Board.

The amount was considered "good" by Clarenceville School Supt. David McDowell, who pointed out it is the same amount the district received last year.

"It's good," he commented, "when you consider some districts will get less because of the half-mill allocation to the Wayne County Community College."

Clarenceville is in the Schoolcraft District and therefore is freed from the half-mill allocation.

CJHS Parents Group Meets

The Clarenceville Junior High parents advisory committee will meet on Wednesday, June 14, at 7:30 p.m. in the junior high building.



HAROLD N. BOGART



MERLE F. VALADE

Ford Promotes 2 In Manufacturing

Two Farmington men have received key assignments on Ford Motor Co.'s manufacturing staff.

Harold N. Bogart of 34435 Lytle was named director of the newly established manufacturing engineering and technical systems office. He will be responsible for manufacturing engineering and manufacturing systems activities of Ford staff operations world wide.

Bogart, who joined Ford in 1937, is a member and past president of the American Society for Testing and Materials, a fellow of the American Society for Metals, a member of the American Foundrymen's Society and Engineering Society of Detroit.

Merle F. Valade of 32307 Redolover succeeds Bogart as director of the manufacturing development office. He will have charge of research on and development of manufacturing processes and materials and related equipment and facilities.

Valade joined Ford in 1937 as a laborer in the glass plant, earned a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Detroit in 1942 and has memberships in the Society of Automotive Engineers, American Society for Testing and Materials, American Society for Metals, American Foundrymen's Society and Engineering Society of Detroit.



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Open House

An open house for the public will be held at King's Mill Cooperative on Sunday, June 4, from 1 to 5 p.m. Refreshments will be served at the clubhouse, located at the main entrance to the cooperative.

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