

Redford-Livonia District

Wayne County Board Race Draws 4

By MARK FRIEDRICH

Three Democrats are seeking their party's nomination to oppose Republican William Roskelley for the 18th District Wayne County Commission seat. County Commissioner seat. Richard Manning, the incumbent, will face Harvey Beadle, former com-

missioner, and Ron Mardiros of Livonia in the Aug. 8 Democratic Primary. Roskelley, of Redford, is president and owner of Basney and Smith, president of Westridge Corp. and president of Delta Engineering.

Roskelley said that if elected he would be to promote one of his top priorities would be to promote better flood control measures in Wayne County. Other priorities he listed would be to curb air and water pollution and promote mass transit for metropolitan Detroit.

In face of the current financial problems of the county, Roskelley said "there weren't a lot of wastes and justments that could be made. I do not think it is necessary to cut services—it's trying to get your department to be more efficient."

Roskelley played a major role in the suit against the proposed public bonding for the Riverfront Stadium. The suit resulted in the Michigan Supreme Court decision to halt the plan. "That lease," he declared, "was a total give away to John Fetzer (Tiger owner)."

REX JAMES Sheehan will head the Pontiac group which will share the experiences and what has happened to make the plan work. Father Sheehan is pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church and vice president of Pontiac Area Concerned Clergy.

The Farmington-Clarenceville branch has followed local communities in organizing to prepare for peaceful desegregation of schools if busing is ordered.

The group is not proposing specific busing plans, but it hopes to make desegregation a successful and peaceful experience.

All parents interested in joining the group may attend the Aug. 9 meeting.

Odette Henige and Ward Varns began the group in June. Several committees have been organized including one on schools headed by Linda Grisdale and Carole Freedman, neighborhoods headed by Martha MacMillan and Nancy Knowlton, churches and temples by Mary Helen Grabbe and Virginia Hilber, government and safety by Ruby Jean Gould and Suzanne Pell, and communications by Joanne E. Smith and Jack Mingo.

the county's Road Commission. "I can't conceive that the Road Commission should be a separate entity, with no responsibility to the electorate."

He took particular pride in a resolution he sponsored which provided \$10,000 to support the Rescue the House Committee.

Manning said he believes that his law practice allows him to dedicate enough time as commissioner. He said that he had attended 95 meetings in the first six months of this year.

RON MARDIROS, 42, is city assessor for Livonia. He also has been a Livonia charter commissioner, treasurer of Grayling Air Inc. and

RICHARD MANNING, 46, is the incumbent in the 18th District. A graduate of the University of Detroit, Manning is a practicing attorney. He was Redford Township supervisor from 1963 to 1969 and ran for county commissioner in 1968 in the Democratic primary. He was elected to the Board of Commissioners in 1970.

If reelected, Manning said that balancing the budget would be one of his major concerns. But he saw no need for additional taxing powers.

"They have adequate taxing powers," he said, "with the simple proviso that a majority (of the voting public) agree."

He blames the current county deficit on inflated costs for personnel and the burden of state mandated services.

Another priority, Manning said, would be to finish the county reorganization. He favors county home rule which would allow for the creation of an executive. "I would prefer that the executive be elected at large," Manning said, "and given some power (veto) to act as an executive."

Manning declared that as a county commissioner "half the time is spent in resisting costly expenditures which have little return, such as the stadium. If they (Detroit businessmen) wouldn't gamble with private money (for the stadium)."

Michigan Airlines, and a member of the Redford Township Chamber of Commerce.

Mardiros does not favor any additional county taxing powers. "I believe the role of the county can be diminished," he said. "The county is involved in many areas that it could get out of."

Mardiros said that many of the duties of the County Road Commission could be taken over by local governments. He added that social and welfare services should be taken over by the state.

If elected his top priority would be to "challenge the state equalization of property taxes," Mardiros claims that the state regularly raises the assessed value of Wayne County, thereby increasing

property taxes, without regard to actual conditions. Mardiros took a vigorous stand in opposition to county home rule but was "interested in a county executive."

Another priority, he said would be to insist on an annual report. "As an elected official, I think that the county Commissioners should make an annual report to the people."

Expressing concern over the reported absenteeism among commissioners, Mardiros said that he "would push for more control on how much time is put in."

He does not now favor the mass transit proposals. "The kind of mass transit that is effective," he declared, "has to be geared about the automobile."

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