

editorial opinion

EDITOR'S NOTE: Endorsements are arrived at in editorial department committees, which are headed by a community editor and include other

editors who are familiar with the race, reporters, senior editors and the co-publishers.

Brodhead is the best

In the last two years, residents of the 17th Congressional District have received exemplary representation. We urge voters to cast their ballots for U.S. Rep. William Brodhead on Nov. 2.

Brodhead (D-Detroit) has proven to be an effective congressional leader during his first term. Many times fledgling congressmen are hampered by the archaic seniority system which plagues the lower house. But not Brodhead.

He boldly has stepped forward and stated his views. Unlike many other freshman legislators, Brodhead has introduced significant legislation. More importantly, he has labored to see that legislation through to fruition.

But Brodhead's first term can be painted in much broader strokes. He understands the needs of his constituents.

The 17th Congressional District is one of the most diversified in the state. Its population in-

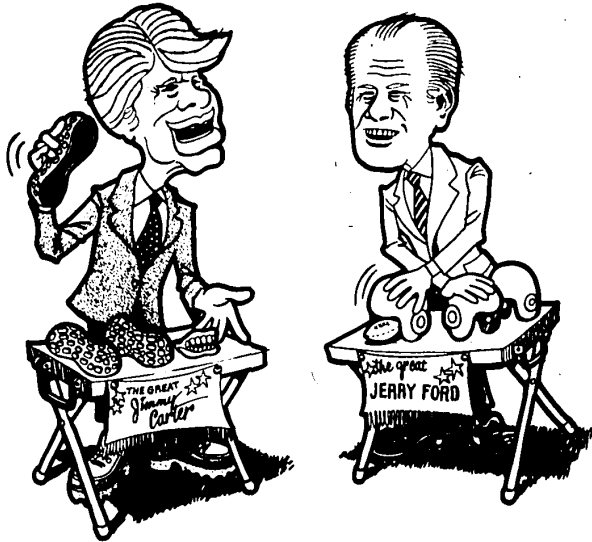
cludes residents from all socio-economic brackets.

Brodhead has seen to it that all of his constituents receive equal representation whether they be rich or poor. He has made it his business to stay in touch with the voters of his district. Each year he has spent a great deal of time talking with and listening to his constituents.

Every phone call or letter that comes to his office in Washington or congressional headquarters in his district receives an answer. If his staff doesn't have the answer, it will find out what the answer is for that resident.

Most importantly, Brodhead has taken the high road both as a U.S. congressman and a campaigner.

He has offered a realistic yet progressive and hopeful approach to problems facing the American people. The voters of the 17th Congressional District can be proud of their representative and feel confident in casting their votes for him.



The old shell game — 1976 style

Brotherton a hard worker

A vote for 64th District State Rep. Walter (Sandy) Brotherton will ensure a continuation of competent representation in Lansing.

Brotherton (R-Farmington) has a proven record as a hard working legislator. Especially notable is his keen awareness to the flaws of the single business tax, which has hampered local businessmen since its passage.

While other legislators were hemming and hawing over the regressive bill, Brotherton was on the stump warning of its dangers.

This is just one example of Brotherton's competency. But it is an example which other legislators should heed, especially those who peck and

paw for their own special interest groups and never look at what is best for all their constituents.

Brotherton is genuinely concerned about the voters back home in Farmington and Southfield. He makes a real effort to see to it that they know what's going on in the state capital which most affects them. He attends countless meetings to explain complex legislation so that his constituents understand every nuance.

Through the years, Lansing has been inhabited with legislators who either are there to feather their own caps or are just there. Brotherton is a welcome relief from this old stereotype of politician.

We believe

County deserves dedication

Oakland County government is becoming more sophisticated and complex as the population grows. The board of commissioners needs members who are able to deal with the problems and are willing to spend adequate time to solve these problems.

The Farmington area Oakland County commission candidates who can best meet these standards are Saellen Haas, 24th district; Robert McCune, 25th district; and John McDonald, 27th district.

Ms. Haas has been an energetic candidate who has expressed a determination to make the commissioner's job a fulltime position.

Because of the increasing problems which must be met by county government, we believe more persons should be elected who are willing to spend the time. Ms. Haas will do this.

Although she is a Democrat, Republican voters can feel confident that she will represent all inter-

ests in the community. Although concerned about social issues, she will be fiscally responsible.

McCune is one of the more competent persons to run for county commission of late. He has a most impressive record as a charter commissioner, Farmington Township supervisor, Farmington Hills mayor and councilman.

He truly is concerned with how the county will develop. His record in Farmington Hills demonstrates that he is capable of making those decisions which best suit a fast growing area. County government will be much better off with McCune as one of its own.

McDonald has focused his attention on improving transportation for Oakland County residents. He has fought for fair and equitable Oakland County representation on the Southeast Michigan Transportation Authority (SEMTA) board. His reelection to the commission will be an asset to the county.

Proposals C, D conflict; both are bad for state

Proposals on ballots tend to be confusing because of the lack of information available to the public. Often the first time voters come to grips with them is inside the voting booth.

In Tuesday's election there will be four proposals.

Proposal A concerns outlawing non-returnable beer and soft drink bottles and cans; it has been well publicized.

Proposal B would lower the age requirement for eligibility for the Michigan Legislature from 21 to 18.

Proposals C and D are the most complex and confusing.

PROPOSAL C would amend the state constitution by restricting to 8.3 per cent of the combined personal income of the people of the state the amount of money the state could collect through taxes.

Everyone is sick and tired of higher taxes. This constitutional amendment would prohibit the legislature's continually raising taxes above this set limit, and it actually provides for the refund of excess revenue to individual taxpayers.

The problem is that the amendment is not workable.

In an effort to hold down state spending, we would be shackling the state legislature to an arbitrary percentage of people's incomes, regardless of the problems facing the state in a particular year.

No one wants to pay more taxes, but no one really wants to see our educational dollars cut or people unable to find work having no food or shelter.

WHAT WILL ACTUALLY happen if this amendment passes is that the state and local governments will find new ways of taxation to get around this limitation. It means there will be more taxes, particularly real estate property taxes.

The way to control the growth of state spending is by people's impressing their desires on the state legislature, not by setting up an artificial percentage for state revenue collections and then every year having to amend the constitution to make that percentage more realistic.

PROPOSAL D is a "soak the rich" proposal that probably is the exact opposite of proposal C. It will encourage more state spending.

It would allow a graduated state income tax with one tax rate for the first \$20,000 of income and a higher rate for income over \$20,000 (as adjusted by exemptions).

The backers of the amendment say that 85 per cent of the people would get a tax cut and 15 per cent of the people would pay more taxes.

Experts have said that instead of the flat rate of 4.6 per cent everyone now pays, the rate for next year would drop to 3.9 per cent for the first \$20,000 and leap to somewhere around 8.5 or 9.0 per cent for income over \$20,000.

It is very attractive to an awful lot of people because they think they are going to get a tax cut.

THE INTENTION, of course, is to make the very wealthy people carry the burden of state government.

The problem is that there are not enough wealthy people to carry the entire burden, and many of the very wealthy with tax-sheltered incomes would not be affected by the amendment.

This proposal, then, would hit at the working man's income, whether he be in the middle or upper class.

When the state starts to assess an income tax of 9.0 per cent against a working man's salary, business is going to start moving their higher paid positions outside the State of Michigan.

NEW YORK STATE'S income tax reached 12 per cent, and all you need to do is look at the major financial publications to see how many home offices have moved out of New York to Connecticut, New Jersey or Houston, Texas.

Practically every resident of the State of Michigan gets an equal amount of services from the state.

While "ability to pay" has a very nice ring, it cannot be found in any constitution and is really an excuse to shift the burden of taxation from the majority of voters to the minority of voters.



by HENRY M. HOGAN, JR.

Any tax philosophy that encourages people to seriously consider moving out of a state is counterproductive to increasing the number of jobs and attracting business into the state.

IF \$20,000 A YEAR is the magic number for saying who should carry a greater burden of supporting the state, consider now the number of two-income families with wives working who will fall into that category. Sanitation workers in Detroit are now in the \$18,000 class.

The purpose of proposal D would be to make it easier for the state legislature to raise taxes in the future because the majority of voters would not pay the increase, only the minority in the higher income classes. Therefore, the legislature could spend more without political repercussions. If the people in Michigan are tired of high taxes, they should vote against proposal D because it opens the door to higher taxes.

Removing Sunday hunt ban sensible

City men who like hunting can thank Atty Gen Frank Kelley for nearly doubling their hunting seasons.

Although the state supposedly makes hunting rules, counties since 1927 have had the option of banning Sunday hunting. Thirteen counties with strong farmer influence had done so over the years. The effect was to reduce the city dweller's weekend—and his hunting season—by 50 per cent. Washtenaw, Lapeer, Livingston, Macomb and St. Clair counties are among the nearby ones which had done this.

Kelley, however, ruled those counties may continue to ban Sunday hunting on privately-owned land, but could not do so on state-owned land.

Kelley's reasoning was sound. "Lands owned by the state are held in trust for the use and benefit of all the people of the state. Many of these lands were acquired with fees derived from hunting licenses for the purpose of providing hunting areas for all of the people."

It's curious. In an era of great anti-hunting public sentiment, the number of hunting licenses is increasing faster, proportionately, than the population. Lem Mesec, the nom de plume of our outdoors writer, recently reported that biologists are worried that deer are increasing faster than the habitat. The biologists believe hunting is a more humane method of controlling the deer population than either starvation, auto accidents or distribution of animal feed that the deer may be unable to digest.

It's unlikely that Kelley's ruling will result in any wholesale slaughter of animals and birds that the Michigan ecosystem cannot tolerate. After all, if you follow the arrest reports for poaching and other game law violations, you've noticed it's not the city slicker who's the big lawbreaker.

Our endorsements

On the four statewide ballot proposals Nov. 2, this newspaper recommends voting:

For proposal A, which would ban non-returnable beer and soft drink bottles and cans.

For proposal B, which would lower the age for state legislators from 21 to 18, matching the voting age.

Against proposal C, which would limit state taxing and spending to 8.3 per cent of total personal income.

Against proposal D, which would lower the state tax on incomes below \$20,000 and require big raises for higher incomes, mandating a graduated income tax.

from our readers

Doctor says thank you for aid

During 1974-75, it has been my pleasure to experience the guidance of the Farmington Hills zoning building and engineering departments as well as the planning commission, city council and zoning board of appeals.

It all began when I decided to rezone property and remodel an existing residence into the Farmington Hills Chiropractic Clinic. I am indeed grateful that the members of these governing bodies confirmed the reasonable nature of my requests in rezoning and variances.

Before a building permit was issued, it was required that I have complete and approved plans for the grounds and construction changes. When construction began, the building department in its various subdivisions guided me through plumbing, air conditioning, electrical heating and carpentry code requirements.

Although firm in their convictions, the engineering department was cooperative in the planning and construction of the entire site.

Adequate parking, beauty, proper drainage and traffic control were the engineering department objectives.

Due to a 1976 revision of a zoning ordinance, we constructed probably the first stained concrete simulated brick screening wall complete with decorative cap located in the Farmington Hills area.

I am truly grateful and appreciative to the personnel of all the departments at Farmington Hills City Hall for their cooperation throughout my project and particularly for my certificate of occupancy issued to me in September of 1976.

DR. GERALD HOST
Farmington Hills

Officer is thanked for good manners

Editor:

With all the controversy going on these days about our police departments, I'd like to say thanks to Officer John Stille for making me aware I was breaking the law.

Although I'm not proud of the fact that I was speeding yesterday and received a ticket (justly deserved), I would like to say thank you to Officer John Stille for making me aware I was breaking the law.

His courtesy and good manners were appreciated and were a good example to my teen-age daughter, who was with me at the time. Police officers aren't as bad as we are led to believe.

ISABELLA HERMANN
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Farmington Observer

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