

**But concedes some suburbs**

**Fitzgerald: 'I've got the undecideds'**

By LEONARD FOGER

Democratic gubernatorial candidate William Fitzgerald, opening his last weekend of campaigning in the suburbs, said Friday that he will probably lose Livonia and Farmington Hills to his Republican foe, Gov. William Milliken.

But Fitzgerald stressed that his polls show him ahead of Milliken in Macomb County, where the governor beat Democrat Sander Levin in the 1970 and 1974 campaigns.

On a state-wide basis, the Democratic candidate said in a Livonia City Hall press conference that the polls show Milliken's lead narrowed down to a point where it is impossible to call the election.

Fitzgerald said according to the polls, he has gained a 2-1 margin among those previously undecided. He feels that his current "surge" will carry through Tuesday's election.

Fitzgerald said he and Milliken are

doing a lot of campaigning, particularly this final weekend, in the tri-county area. He spent about 90 minutes in Livonia.

His itinerary included a televised conversation with Mayor Edward McNamara, a Democrat who is supporting Fitzgerald.

Fitzgerald also went on a hand-shaking tour of city hall, the court building, a senior citizens' center, and the senior citizens' housing complex, McNamara Towers.

Fitzgerald said that he feels he will win Tuesday and planned nothing different in his campaign in the final weekend of activities.

He said Democratic nominee Levin could have won in either 1970 or 1974 if he had had beat Milliken in Macomb County.

Fitzgerald also said that polls show him doing substantially better in Genesee County, home of Libby Maynard, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor.



Gubernatorial candidate William Fitzgerald shares a laugh with Irene Hachey at the Livonia Senior Citizens Center during a six-minute campaign swing through suburban Detroit. (Staff photo)

**Parks' association blasts Headlee plan**

The Michigan Recreation and Park Association (MRPA) this week voted to oppose the Tisch and Headlee amendments which go before the Michigan voters Tuesday.

MRPA Executive Director John Greenlit called the tax limitation proposals "devastating to current and future park and recreation programs in Michigan."

He contended that the costs of restoring these programs in the future would far outstrip the projected short-term savings tied to either of the two proposed amendments.

"These measures would surely mean increased users fees, entrance permits, non-resident restrictions, shorter operating hours, and other major drawbacks to recreationists in this state."

"Enactment of the Tisch amendment would bring state and local park and recreation programs collapsing back to Depression day levels," he added.

"This measure could even result in closing up most, if not all, public recreation facilities in Michigan within two years," he emphasized.

MRPA members see similar, deluding dangers in the Headlee amendment, which call for hold-the-line and no-new spending.

"This proposal," explains Greenlit, "would place undue hardships on recreation services at a time when we have been working so hard to catch up with recreational needs at all levels of government." He points out that leisure-time activities, facilities, and programs have traditionally received low funding priorities.

Reflecting further on both amendments, Greenlit said "we have particular concern for the handicapped, the aged, the young, the economically and culturally disadvantaged, especially those with transportation."



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