

Proposals set to shake up ancient provisos

By TIM RICHARD

Two age-old provisions of the Michigan Constitution would be changed if Proposals G and H are approved Tuesday by voters.

Leaders of both political parties support them. It's hard to find anyone against them — or excited about them.

Fred Anderson, an aide to Senate Democratic leader William Faust, last week outlined both to two dozen persons in a Schoolcraft College audience.

Proposal G would allow changes in the ground rules for legislators' immunity from civil arrest, and H would change the ground rules for the lieutenant governor's office.

PROPOSAL G has roots in British law, said Anderson, an attorney.

"The king of England used to have the sheriff arrest members of Parliament if he thought they were unfavorable to him," he said. "There are attorneys who would bring suit to harass legislators."

Proposal G would add the words "except as provided by law" to the section of the Michigan Constitution which now says:

"Senators and representatives shall be privileged from civil arrest and civil process during sessions of the legislature and for five days next before the commencement and after the termination thereof."

Proposal G would allow changes in the ground rules for legislators' immunity from civil arrest, and H would change the ground rules for the lieutenant governor's office.

Now that the Michigan Legislature is technically in session all year, legislators are almost totally immune from civil proceedings.

What brought the situation to light was a 1978 law decriminalizing many misdemeanors, including many traffic offenses. The result: State police have been ordered not to ticket legislators.

Anderson quoted Faust, of Westland, as saying, "People who make the law shouldn't be above it."

PROPOSAL H, which Lt. Gov. James Brickley also supports, would amend the constitution to:

- Remove the lieutenant governor as presiding officer of the State Senate. "Sen. Faust felt that having an executive officer as the presiding officer of the senate and casting a tie-breaking vote was violating the principle of separation of executive and legislative powers. This gives the senate the right to elect its own presiding officer," said Anderson, adding that Ohio and Wisconsin have recently adopted a similar provision.

- Allow the governor to appoint a new lieutenant governor in case of a vacancy. The house and senate would have to approve the appointment. This provision is the same as the 25th amendment to the U.S. Constitution, under which Gerald Ford in 1973 and Nelson Rockefeller in 1974 were appointed vice president.

- Allow a state legislator to be appointed lieutenant governor. At present, a legislator cannot accept a civil appointment during his term of office.

One questioner said the amendment would assure that the presiding officer of the senate would be from the same party as the senate majority. Currently the lieutenant governor is a Republican and the senate majority is Democratic.

Brain study grant

The Kresge Foundation of Troy has authorized a \$1-million grant to the University of Michigan to help underwrite a new brain-disease research center in the U-M Medical Center, Ann Arbor.

Construction on the center is due to start in fall. A \$7.3-million federal grant, announced in 1979, will support initial construction and operation of the center for five years, a U-M announcement said.

The Kresge grant will aid a Positron Emission Tomography (PET) center in the research center. It will be used in research on multiple sclerosis, arteriosclerosis, strokes, tumors and Huntington's Chorea. It can potentially be used on schizophrenia and manic depression.

Created in 1924 by the late Sebastian S. Kresge, the foundation has awarded more than \$333 million to higher education, health service, the arts, social welfare and conservation.

Tisch and Headlee urge you to Vote YES on Proposal D



Robert Tisch



Richard Headlee

What the Tisch Tax Cut Amendment 1980 means to you

50% Cut

of your assessed property valuation based on 1978 S.E.V. tax bill.

75% Cut

if your income is between \$5,000 and \$10,500.

No Property Tax

if your income is less than \$5,000.

No New Fees, Licenses, Etc.

No New Tax!

to be applied to homesteads. No tax of any kind without 3/5ths vote of the public.

No More Property Tax for Senior Citizens

Age 62

operating school millage will not apply to oldsters.

No Cut in Education

State cannot alter the school aid formula or any other school funding to impair the mandated rights of school aged children.

2% Limit

to yearly increases for tax purposes on homes and farms.

No Strings!

State must return 100% monies to local government and LOCAL CONTROL with no ands, ifs, or buts.

Renters Relief

will be similar to homeowners.

The 1980 Citizen's Tax Test

1. Do you feel state spending which has tripled over the past 10 years is out of control and too high?

YES NO

2. Do you feel the legislature whose operating budget has gone from \$14,000,000 to \$48,000,000 in 10 years (up 248%), is wasting your money?

YES NO

3. Do you believe we should reject desperate politicians who would close down The School for the Blind, The School for the Deaf, and reduce our commitment to higher education, while at the same time they budget \$26,000,000 for developing a subway plan for Detroit?

YES NO

4. Do you feel state and local government, which currently spends \$14 billion annually, could withstand a little belt tightening, say 10%?

YES NO

5. Do you believe the governor and legislature have failed to deal with the fundamental problems of our state such as unemployment, workers compensation excesses, and high taxes?

YES NO

6. Have the elected public officials with the responsibility for protecting the taxpayers from runaway property taxes and explosive government spending and waste, arrogantly ignored the citizens of our state?

YES NO

7. Do you believe the citizens of Michigan will continue to support responsible leaders in providing the proper level of necessary services?

YES NO

8. Do you believe taxpayers should have the right to approve future tax increases?

YES NO

If your answers are "Yes" to any of these questions, YOU SHOULD VOTE YES on PROPOSAL D, The Tisch Tax Cut. As a taxpayer, do yourself a favor on November 4th — VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL D.

VOTE YES ON PROPOSAL D, VOTE NO ON PROPOSALS A AND C

Paid for by: Tisch Coalition for a Property Tax Cut in Michigan, Inc., Laingsburg, Michigan 48848

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