

# Ballot plans

## Referendum petitions abound on taxes, welfare, judges

With the 1982 general election seven months away, Michigan politicians and residents are circulating at least 10 petitions in hopes of placing constitutional amendments or new law proposals on the Nov. 2 ballot.

Seven petitions, all dealing with money issues, are proposed amendments to the state constitution. Petitions must be signed by 250,000 registered voters in order to be placed on the ballot.

Here is a synopsis of each proposal and the person to contact:

**CITIZENS for Property Tax Relief and Quality Education**, sponsored by Rep. Calude Trim, D-Davidsburg, and Rep. Roy Smith, R-Saline. This proposal calls for exempting 100 percent of all school operating taxes on resident homeowners for persons 62 years of age and over and for exempting 75 percent of school operating taxes on homeowners. Limits would be \$1,800 for houses and \$2,500 for farms, indexed annually based on the growth of residential and agricultural assessments.

It guarantees local control by local school boards, reimburses each school district 100 percent for any loss due to the exemptions, requires assessment of agriculture and forestry properties on use, holds business and industry harmless from any tax to replace the costs due to the exemptions beyond the sales tax.

To replace lost local revenue, the sales tax would be increased one percent, and there is a possible 0.8 percent increase in the income tax unless the Legislature makes further cuts in state spending.

For petition information, contact Trim at 625-5516.

**"CUT"** — Citizens United for Tisch — is sponsoring the Tisch III tax cut.

It calls for rolling back property taxes to the 1980 level in 1983. Thereafter, property taxes would be cut 12 percent a year for three years.

Homeowners whose income is \$8,000-\$12,500 per year would have their tax bills further cut in half. Persons with incomes of \$8,000 or less would not pay any property taxes. Senior citizens (62 years and older) with income less than \$15,000 would pay no operating school tax and have their income limit adjusted for inflation in future years. Increases in property tax values on residential and agricultural property are limited to 3 percent a year.

For petition information, call Gwenda Dempsey 683-2026 from 1-3 p.m.

**PART-TIME Legislature**, a second Tisch project, is lengthy.

It requires the Legislature to adjourn by the third Friday in May, ends legislative pensions, takes away pension rights of current legislators, caps legislators' pay increases, provides a \$90 week stipend during non-session weeks to legislators who attend 80 percent of the sessions and takes away the Legislature's power to increase tax rates or to broaden a tax base. It requires tax increase changes to be approved by voters.

It also assigns administrative duties to the lieutenant governor, who currently is required only to preside over the senate.

Same contact as CUT.

**WELFARE Limitation Cut** is sponsored by Berrien County Commissioner Nancy Clark and state Sen. Harry Gast, R-St. Joseph.

This proposal seeks to hold payments for Aid to Families with Dependent Children (ADC) and general assistance in Michigan to the average payment for similar programs in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

Clark says this proposal would save Michigan at least \$200 million a year because records show that benefits in Michigan were 91 percent greater than in Indiana and 56 percent greater than in Ohio in 1980.

For petition information, call Nancy Clark at 616-993-1981.

**CITIZENS for an Improved Ballot**, sponsored by Lt. Gov. James Brickley, would amend the constitution to empower the governor to appoint Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeals Judges, members of the State Board of Education and the governing boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University.

All appointments would have to be approved by the Senate. The governor would also appoint a nine-member Judicial Nominating Commission, of at least four lawyers, which would submit names to the governor for appointment to Supreme Court and Appellate Court vacancies.

It calls for retention elections of Supreme Court justices every eight years and Appellate Court judges every six years. All education boards would be increased from eight to nine members to avoid tie votes, and their terms would be decreased from eight to six years.

For petition information, write Citizens for an Improved Ballot, Box 10115, Lansing, 48901.

**THE DEATH** penalty proposal, sponsored by Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson, would amend the Michigan Constitution to permit the death penalty in murder convictions.

For petition information, call Patterson's office at 858-0650 or at Oakland Republican headquarters in Birmingham at 646-8414.

**REORGANIZING** the Detroit Water Board, sponsored by Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn, would amend state law to give suburban customer communities majority representation on the Detroit Water Board, whose seven members are now appointed by the mayor of Detroit.

It would set up a mechanism for suburban governments to make their own appointments.

Petitions are available at the County Drain Commission office in Pontiac, 858-0958, and at most local city and township halls.

**A FIVE-YEAR** mandatory prison sentence for persons who commit felonies against senior citizens (persons age 60 or older) would go into effect under a proposed state law.

No parole or probation would be permitted. The five-year mandatory sentence would be in addition to any other sentence imposed by the court. "Mandatory sentencing is a proven deterrent against crime," according to the sponsor, state Sen. John Hertel, D-Harper Woods.

Petition forms are available from Sen. Hertel, State Capitol, Lansing 48909, or from the honorary co-chairpersons, Marilyn Turner and Mickey Loch, c/o WXYZ-TV, Box 789 Southfield 48037.

**CAP — Citizens Against Pornography** — is seeking voter enactment of a bill to define and prohibit obscenity, providing for prison sentences of up to four years and fines of up to \$10,000.

The group grew out of a movement to close down "adult" movie houses in Ferndale. The proposed act would apply to written and filmed matter and to performances before an audience.

It defines "sexual conduct" as "depictions or descriptions, whether actual or simulated, normal or perverse, or between persons of the same or opposite sex, of sexual intercourse, fellatio, cunnilingus, anal intercourse or any intrusion, however slight, of any part of a person's body or of any object into the genital or anal openings of another person's body,

or depictions or descriptions of sexual bestiality, sadomasochism, masturbation or excretory functions."

Petition forms are available from Citizens Against Pornography, Box 20012 Ferndale 48220, or from state Rep. Jelt Sietema, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

**MICHIGAN NUCLEAR Weapons Freeze Campaign** is an advisory referendum which would call on the federal government to propose to the Soviet Union the stopping of production of nuclear arms. Campaigners want to join others in 40 states to fight nuclear arms buildup.

For petition information, call the Detroit campaign office at 577-5053.

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**CORRECTION**

Sears Pre-Print Tab

Craftsman 12-gallon wet/dry vac (#1781), Reg. \$109.99 should have read Sale Price \$99.99. Plus \$10. sledge hammer, Reg. \$23.99, Sale Price should have read \$16.99. Sorry for these errors!

Sears, Roebuck and Co.

Thursday, April 15, 1982

(C)11A

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As of April 1, 1982, Waterford prices increased, on the average, by 10%.

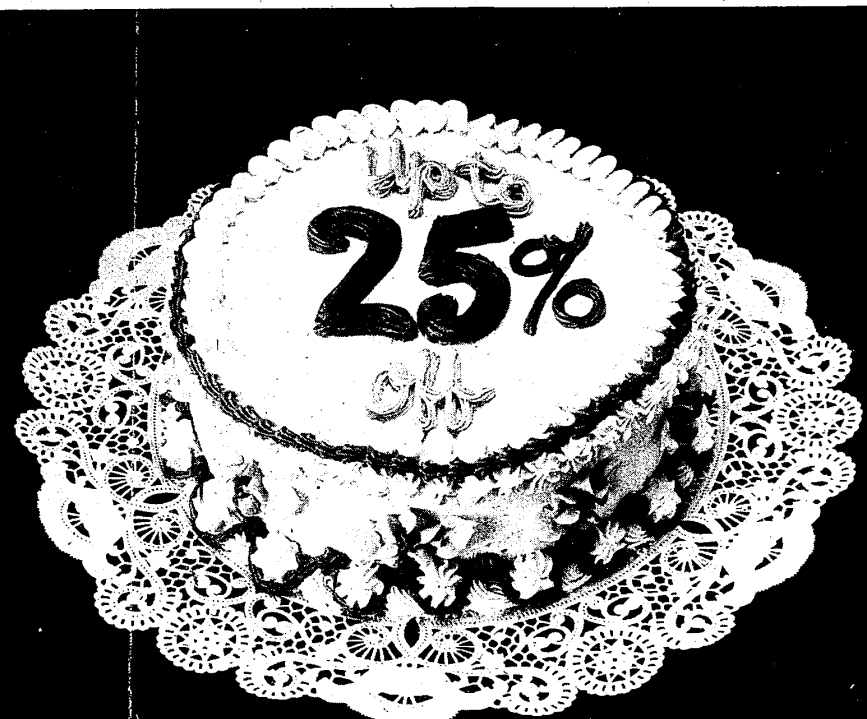
Greenstone's will continue to maintain prices, at their old level, on all Waterford currently in stock through May 1, 1982.

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**SOUTHFIELD**  
Telegraph at 12 Mile  
Phone 353-9880

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