

Dolans say abortion rights shouldn't be political issue

Continued from Page 1

Proposal A asks whether the state should stop paying for them. A "yes" vote would halt such payment; a "no" vote would maintain the state's current program.

Proposal A is bound to overshadow any other ballot questions. The statewide referendum caps more than a decade of controversy over abortion for low-income women. Anti-abortion forces have tried to stop the state from paying for an annual 18,600 welfare-paid abortions; but gubernatorial vetoes from former

Republican Gov. William Milliken and current Democratic Gov. James Blanchard always stood in the way.

The proposal was put on the ballot this year after petition drives and court battles involving Michigan Right to Life and the People's Campaign for Choice, the two groups acting at opposite ends of the spectrum on the abortion issue.

During last summer's primary race, Democrat John Dolan said he was "philosophically and theologically against abortion." Republican Jan Dolan contended "freedom of

choice is a constitutional right."

The two Dolans, unrelated, will vie Nov. 8 to capture the seat of retiring state Rep. Wilbur "Sandy" Brotherton, R-Farmington, who will vacate his seat at the end of the year.

The 69th District covers the cities of Farmington and Farmington Hills, Southfield Township and the villages of Blumhills Farms, Franklin and Beverly Hills.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Dems urge proposal A 'no' vote

The Farmington Democratic Club appears on a list of statewide groups that forms the People's Coalition for Choice, which represents the pro-choice side of the abortion issue.

One of the few local groups in the 48-group coalition, the Democratic Club urges a no vote on Proposal A.

The proposal asks voters if they would "restrict use of tax funds for abortions for persons receiving public assistance." A yes vote would ban

Medicaid-funded abortions; a no vote would maintain current payments.

The group took a position after club member Marian McCracken, Michigan president of the National Organization for Women, raised the issue at a meeting, according to Democratic Club activist Aldo Vagnozzi of Farmington Hills.

"She brought it up and we endorsed it," he said.

Some members of the Democratic Club have also crossed the lines dur-

ing this election year, supporting Republican Jan Dolan in her bid for the 69th state House district seat. Jan Dolan has taken a stand as a pro-choice candidate.

The Farmington Democratic Club, several metro Detroit groups, and statewide organizations make up members of the People's Coalition for Choice, in an effort to defeat the November ballot issue. Michigan Right to Life members have called for an end to state-funded abortions for poor women.

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Mayor asks planner to resign Hills post

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