

# Broomfield hopeful for '92

By Pat Murphy  
staff writer

There'll be no retirement for Bill Broomfield — not just yet, anyway — even with a \$655,000 incentive. That's the amount Broomfield will forfeit next year if he runs for reelection instead of retiring as U.S. representative in the 18th Congressional District that includes parts of Oakland, Macomb and Livingston counties.

Some experts — Democratic and Republicans — speculated Broomfield might not seek re-election in order to take advantage of existing election laws before they change for 1993.

Existing laws permit federal legislators who retire next year to convert leftover campaign funds to their personal use. The must pay taxes, of course. But they can legally convert war chests into nesteggs. For Broomfield, that amounts to \$655,000 — a nifty nestegg by most standards.

**BUT BROOMFIELD**, who quietly turned 69 Sunday, says he'd rather have a 19th consecutive term, especially if the GOP can capitalize on the popularity of President Bush and win some congressional seats next year.

"I'd like to see what I could do if we (Republicans) controlled Congress," said Broomfield, ranking Republican on House Foreign Affairs Committee.

If the GOP could win control of the House in 1992 — something they haven't done in 40 years — Broomfield could become chairman of that prestigious committee.

"I'd love to be part of implementing the President's foreign policy," he said.

"This isn't something new," Broomfield said. "I've said all along that as long as my health is good — and I can contribute — I want to continue serving my district, regardless of who the Democrats might put up."

Democrats, however, say the GOP — and Broomfield, in particular — are too optimistic in light of the domestic problems they insist are festering.

"President Bush's domestic policies are disastrous," said Donald Tucker, a Birmingham attorney who is also chairman of the Oakland County Democrats.

**TUCKER PREDICTS** the worsening recession will aggravate existing problems in education, roads and other crucial areas. By next fall, they will all add up against Republicans, he said.

Broomfield will be vulnerable as that happens, Tucker said. "Because he's been a rubber stamp for Bush (and previously Reagan) and his policies."

Furthermore, Tucker is suspicious of Broomfield's comments that he will seek another term. "I look for him to change his mind before the filing deadline," he said.

The reason is he wants to maintain whatever influence he has as Michigan's congressional districts are redistricted. "If he (Broomfield) is perceived as an active candidate, he has more clout and can exert more influence on how the boundaries are drawn," Tucker said.

With Broomfield's influence, Re-



Rep. William Broomfield

publicans have a better chance of drawing the new boundaries so as to favor the GOP, Tucker said. "They have a much better chance of making sure the district is 90 percent Republican."

**REDISTRICTING** is expected to begin later this summer after the final census figures are certified. Speculation is the 18th District may be redrawn in such a manner that Broomfield and a well-known Democrat — like incumbents Sandy Levin or Bob Carr — would run against each other.

Broomfield says that prospect doesn't bother him. "I'm ready to run against any Democrat."

Democrats counter by saying they're anxious. Among them is Walter O. Briggs IV of Birmingham who ran against the incumbent last fall, and lost by a 2 to 1 vote margin.

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