

# Honigman-Faxon battle 'unlikely'

Neither Jack Faxon nor David Honigman expects to face the other in a state Senate race, even though a court panel's redistricting plan puts both incumbents in the same district.

Faxon, D-Southfield, and Honigman, R-West Bloomfield, would face each other in 1994 under the Michigan Supreme Court panel-approved plan.

But don't hold your breath. "I don't think that is going to happen," Faxon said. "These districts might not stand."

Urban legislators already threaten to challenge the districts over their alleged lack of minority representation.

Also, further court or legislative changes are possible before the plan takes effect.

EVEN IF the redistricting plan stands, Faxon could move into a nearby district left without an incumbent.

That district stretches from Southfield to Pontiac, consolidating Oakland County's two most heavily Democratic cities, while maintaining Faxon's traditional power base.

Faxon said he's made no decisions, but his potential rival fully expects him to move.

"I'd imagine that is what he would do," said Honigman, who has plans of his own.

Long considered a Congressional prospect, Honigman said he is contemplating running for the U.S. House as early as this year.

The panel's plan splits Faxon's current Farmington/Southfield-based district in two.

Farmington and Farmington Hills would join with West Bloomfield in a solidly Republican district.

"I DON'T KNOW why they did it the way they did," Faxon said. "Farmington and Southfield have been joined together for 30 years. I don't know why they chose to make it a vertical district instead of a horizontal one."

The district also includes Northville, Novi, South Lyon, Walled Lake and Wixom, as well as Commerce, Highland, Lyon, Milford and Novi townships.

The open district includes Berkeley, Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Bloomfield Township, Franklin, Lathrup Village, Oak Park and Royal Oak Township.

Here is how redistricting would affect other area state senators:

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— Sen. Jack Faxon

• Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, would be placed in a district retaining Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Madison Heights, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak and Troy, picking up Bloomfield-Hills while losing Berkeley.

• Mat Dunaskis, R-Lake Orion, would be placed in a district retaining Auburn Hills, Keego Harbor, Rochester and Rochester Hills, as well as Addison, Oakland, Orion and Waterford townships. It adds Clarkston, Lake Angelus, Orchard Lake, Village and Sylvan Lake, as well as Independence, Springfield and White Lake townships, while losing Pontiac.

# Honigman vs. Pursell?

## State senator eyes run for U.S. House

By Wayne Peal

A battle could be brewing between state Sen. David Honigman and U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell for the Congressional seat held by Pursell since 1977.

"It's been a boyhood dream of mine to run for Congress," Honigman said, adding he was considering a run this year.

Honigman wasn't specific about which district he would choose — his West Bloomfield home would most likely be placed in a district featuring longtime Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham, as its incumbent.

But GOP insiders say that if Honigman runs it would most likely be against Pursell.

A Pursell-Honigman primary could be perhaps the most-watched state race. Redistricting could be the key to whether it happens.

The GOP's own redistricting plan shifts the balance of Pursell's 2nd District seat from the Ann Arbor/Hillsdale area to western Oakland County, Farmington Hills and Novi, along with the Walled Lake/Milford area, would be added to the district under the GOP plan.



State Sen. David Honigman (right) said it's been his "boyhood dream to run for Congress." A spokesman for U.S. Rep. Carl Pursell said "he feels confident going into this election."

Though Pursell once represented southwestern Oakland communities in the state Senate, that was more than 15 years ago.

"I think that could be a factor in his (Honigman's) decision," LaVallee said.

Despite the time frame, Pursell said he hasn't lost contact with his Oakland County residents.

"HE FEELS feels confident going into this election," Pursell spokesman Gary Cates said. "Obviously, this would be a pretty heavily Republican district and he does go in as the incumbent. As for any other candidates, we'd have to wait on redistricting."

The Democratic redistricting plan would pit Pursell and Broomfield in a district stretching from Plymouth to Birmingham.

The wild card in any redistricting plan is that federal law doesn't require Congressional candidates to live within the district they seek to represent. The U.S. Constitution only specifies they live within the state.

Population losses will force Michigan to lose two of its 18 Congressional seats.

"IF YOU you look at it, it's a large portion of Honigman's state Senate district," Oakland GOP executive director Jim LaVallee said.

Pursell, 59, is a member of the House Appropriations Committee. Honigman, 36, is in his first state Senate term. He previously served three terms in the state House.

LaVallee had earlier said he doubted Honigman would be a 1992 Congressional candidate, but added that was based on a potential showdown with 35-year-veteran Broomfield.

Both Pursell and Broomfield have already confirmed they are candidates for 1992. Pursell, R-Plymouth, is already campaigning in western Oakland.

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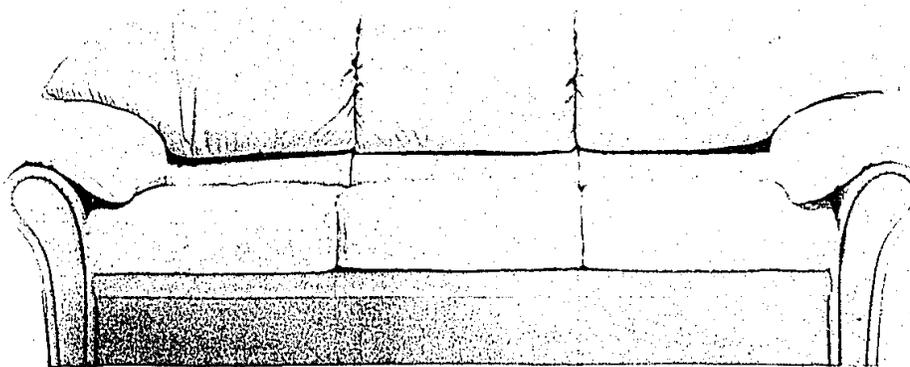
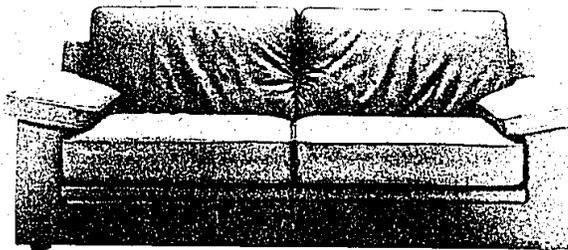
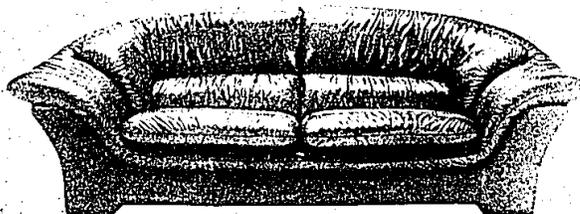
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