

# How Democrats Plan To Remap Districts

By LEONARD POGER  
Democrats hoping to carve new state legislative districts to the party's benefit have irritated some people—like fellow Democrats.

The state party held a closed hearing recently to hear comments about the proposed redistricting of the State Senate and House districts in Western Wayne County.

THE OBSERVER was at the hearing but was asked to leave shortly after it got under way. But comments made after the hearing made it clear that many of the Democratic incumbent legislators and potential candidates are unhappy about the proposal.

Even Garden City Mayor James Lowe, elected on a non-partisan basis, voiced strong objections over a proposal to split his community between two Senate districts.

The plan was drafted by the four Democratic members of the eight-member Reap-

## New Precinct Elections Asked

LANSING  
A bill which would give new voters a voice in the selection of Democratic presidential nominees passed the House last week with Observers' six Democratic representatives voting for it and two Republicans opposing it.

In a partisan vote of 58 to 41, only two state Republicans voted for the bill providing for an April primary for the election of precinct delegates. The bill was referred to the Senate.

Observation Democrats voting for it were Rep. John Bennett of Redford Township, Thomas Brown of Westland, Joseph Forbes of Oak Park, Marvin Stempien of Livonia, James Tierney of Garden City, and Richard Young of Dearborn Heights.

AMONG REPUBLICANS opposing the measure were Reps. Raymond Baker of Farmington and James

Defebaugh of Birmingham. The only Republicans voting for passage were Reps. John Brown of Okemos, and Joseph Swallow of Alpena.

Purpose of the bill is to provide for a special election on April 3, 1972, to elect delegates to county conventions prior to the presidential nominating conventions of 1972.

If it fails in the Senate, which is split with half Republicans and half Democrats, precinct delegates to the state conventions will be those elected in August 1970.

Because those delegates

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### Magazine's Pick

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portionment Commission, which also includes four Republicans. If the redistricting plan drafted by a majority of the commission meets Supreme Court guidelines, it will be put into effect for the 1972 elections.

If history is any guide the commission will probably have a deadline 4-4 along party lines, and the State Supreme Court will have to make a decision. The U.S. court's guidelines

for redistricting the Legislature stipulate that the districts follow the "one-man-one-vote" principle, that the districts be as square as possible and that splitting of communities be avoided where possible.

IN WAYNE COUNTY, the Democratic proposal recommends the following State Senate districts:

The 14th District, now represented by Republican

Two public hearings on legislative apportionment will be held for metropolitan residents this week.

Oakland County residents can attend a hearing on Thursday, Dec. 9 at 1 p.m., in the Oakland County Commissioners Auditorium. The auditorium is in the Oakland County Government Complex, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

SINCE YOUTHS between 18 and 21 were just enfranchised this summer, they will not be represented in the presidential election process if the April special election fails.

The bill provides only for the election of precinct delegates in April though other issues could be placed on the ballot. Alde Vaguzzi, Democratic chairman of the 19th District, has urged senators from the area to vote for the bill. His appeal was directed to Sen. Carl Pursell (R-Plymouth).

David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights) and Harvey Lodge (R-Waterford).

"The time has come to give the new voters a meaningful role in the 1972 elections by approving House Bill 5748," Vaguzzi said.

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Carl Pursell, would include Democratic Redford Township, Republican Plymouth city and township and Northville city and township; plus Livonia, which has no set partisan pattern.

The 13th District, now represented by Democrat William Faust, would remain substantially the same with one change opposed by Garden City.

Garden City would be cut by the 12th and 13th districts with most of the city placed in the 12th district, which would also include Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

The proposed boundary between the two districts would run up and down side streets and legislatively split the city, which is now entirely within the 13th District.

The 12th District is represented by David Plawewski (D-Dearborn Heights).

In addition, a small portion of Westland bounded by Merriman, Joy, Warren and Venoys Rds. would be removed from the 13th District and placed in Pursell's 14th District.

That one square mile covers Republican precincts, although the balance of Westland usually votes for Democrats.

THE PROPOSAL for the State House calls for substantial changes in the existing boundaries.

Most of Livonia would be a new 90th house district, with the northeast corner tossed in with Redford Township in a proposed 89th district.

Republican voters in Canton Township, Plymouth and Northville communities would be part of the new 91st district, and would share the district with part of the west side of

Westland, the northwest corner of Livonia and part of Washenaw County.

Garden City would be paired with Inkster, a racially integrated city, in the proposed 30th district.

The north half of Westland would be part of the proposed 36th district and would be paired with the south half of Livonia. The south half of Westland would be linked with Canton Township in a new 37th district.

At present, Westland is split into three house districts, represented by Reps. Thomas Brown of Westland, Richard Young of Dearborn Heights and James Tierney of Garden City.

IN A LETTER to Kenneth Hyton, chairman of the Democrats' apportionment commission, Mayor Lowe said that the largest portion of Garden City would be placed in a Senate district and dominated by Dearborn and Dearborn Heights.

"Culturally and socially speaking, Garden City is more compatible with Westland (both are now in the same 13th District) than Dearborn or Dearborn Heights," Lowe said.

"Our problems in so way compare to Dearborn's problems," he stressed.

He reminded Hyton of the Supreme Court's guidelines concerning keeping entire cities within a single district where possible.

"The new boundary leads to utter confusion," Lowe said. "The proposal would leave Garden City with very little if any proper representation."

"I am opposed to any attempt to change our Senate boundaries without the party supplying answers to his comments."

SEN. FAUST at the hearing said the party that he would have his proposed district changed slightly to have all of Garden City within the 13th district. That could be done by slicing off part of Taylor from his district.

Faust also felt that it is "poor planning" to have Inkster coupled with Dearborn in a new 12th Senate district.

He used the same phrase in placing part of the northern part of Westland in the 14th district.

At the hearing were Faust, State Rep. Brown, and former legislators and candidates

Vincent Pettipren and Justice Barnes, both of Westland.

Pettipren was a three-term House member and is building a new home in the Palmer-Hamman Rd. area of Westland, which would be part of the proposed district including Canton, Plymouth and Northville.

Mrs. Barnes, a Westland City Council member, unsuccessfully opposed Brown in last year's House primary and is interested in how the new boundaries would affect her political chances next year if she decides to run.

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