You may think, as life's storms beat about you these days, that all the sun and beauty have fled from the earth. But this need not be so—for from the cold blasts of every winter lovely Spring and Summer come.

The Birmingham Eccentric

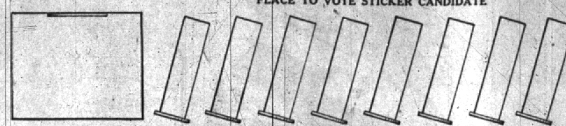
PART THREE

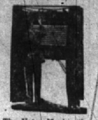
SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR—NO. 2 | BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1948 | $2.50 PER YEAR (In Oakland County)—SINGLE COPIES, 5c

VOTING MACHINE INSTRUCTION BALLOT

City of Birmingham Annual Spring Election and Oakland County Special Election—April 5, 1948

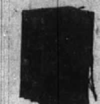
PLACE TO VOTE STICKER CANDIDATE





The Voter Moving the Red Handle to the Right.

The Voter Closing the Curtain.



The Curtain Closed Voter Inside Voting.

1 QUESTIONS →

YES NO
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM—PROPOSITION NUMBER ONE
PROPOSITION TO BOND THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM FOR NOT EXCEEDING $100,000.00 TO CONSTRUCT EXTENSIONS, ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM OF THE CITY.
Shall the City of Birmingham borrow the sum of not exceeding $100,000.00 and issue the bonds of the city therefor for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing extensions, additions and improvements to the sewerage system of the city?

YES NO
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM—PROPOSITION NUMBER TWO
PROPOSITION TO BOND THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM FOR NOT EXCEEDING $50,000.00 TO CONSTRUCT A BRIDGE AND APPROACHES ON MAPLE ROAD OVER THE ROUGE RIVER IN SAID CITY.
Shall the City of Birmingham borrow the sum of not exceeding $50,000.00 and issue the bonds of the city therefor for the purpose of paying the cost of constructing a bridge and approaches on Maple Road over the Rouge River in said city?

YES NO
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM—PROPOSITION NUMBER THREE
PROPOSITION TO BOND THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM FOR NOT EXCEEDING $50,000.00 TO IMPROVE AND DEVELOP LANDS FOR PARK AND RECREATIONAL PURPOSES.
Shall the City of Birmingham borrow the sum of not exceeding $50,000.00 and issue the bonds of the city therefor for the purpose of paying the cost of improving and developing lands owned by the city within its limits for park and recreational purposes?

YES NO
COUNTY OF OAKLAND—QUESTION NO. 2
Shall a tax of two (2) mills ($2.00 per $1000.00) be levied on all of the assessable property in the County of Oakland, State of Michigan, in the years 1948 and 1949, both inclusive, for the purpose of altering the present Infirmary, constructing a Hospital addition thereto, and equipping the same?

OFFICES →

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
FOR COMMISSIONERS (Three (3) Year Term) Vote for Three (3)						FOR MEMBERS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD (Three (3) Year Term) Vote for Two (2)		FOR CONSTABLE (One (1) Year Term) Vote for One (1)															

2 CANDIDATES →

1A	2A	3A	4A	5A	6A	7A	8A	9A
BRUCE G. BOOTH	R. G. HOOVER	RALPH A. MAIN	OSCAR P. PETERSON	WILLIAM SMITH	GARLAND D. TAIT	HARRY ALLEN	ALENE G. WOOD	CARL F. INGRAHAM

3 AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM →

11B YES 12B NO
CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 1 — Dust Proofing Streets
Shall the Charter of the City of Birmingham be amended to permit dust proofing of streets by special assessment procedure by amending Section 1 of Chapter X of said Charter.

15B YES 16B NO
CHARTER AMENDMENT NO. 2—Construction of Sidewalks
Shall the Charter of the City of Birmingham be amended to permit creation of special assessment districts for construction of sidewalks by amending Section 6 of Chapter XI of said Charter?

4 OAKLAND COUNTY QUESTION NO. 1 →

19C YES 20C NO
COUNTY OF OAKLAND QUESTION NO. 1
Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be assessed each year against property in the county of Oakland, State of Michigan, for all purposes except taxes for the payment of interest and principal on obligations incurred prior to December 8, 1932, be increased as provided in Section 21, Article X, of the Constitution of Michigan, for a period of two (2) years, from 1948 to 1949, both inclusive, by one-fifth (1/5) of one per cent, ($2.00 per $1000.00) of the assessed valuation, as equalized, to permit the levying of a two (2) mill tax for the purpose of altering the present Infirmary, constructing a Hospital addition thereto, and equipping the same?

DIRECTIONS FOR VOTING ON THE VOTING MACHINES

1st. Move the Red Handle to the right and leave it there.

2nd. To vote for Candidates for City Offices turn down the pointer over the name of the candidate for whom you wish to vote.

3rd. To cast your ballot for the Amendments to the City Charter or Oakland County Question No. 1–if you wish to Vote in Favor of any Amendment or Question turn the pointer down over the word "Yes". If you wish to Vote Against any Amendment or Question turn the pointer down over the word "No".

4th. To vote on Propositions or Question appearing in first row near top of the machine—only owners of property in Birmingham (or their spouse) may vote on Propositions 1, 2 and 3; only owners of property in Oakland County (or their spouse) may vote on Oakland County Question No. 2. If you have properly qualified in your application to the Election Board you may vote in favor of any of the above by turning pointer down over the word "Yes", or if you wish to vote against any of the above turn the pointer down over the word "No". Should either pointer fail to respond, notify the Inspector **before leaving the booth.**

5th. Move the Red Handle to the left.

To Vote a Sticker Candidate: Write or place name of candidate of your choice in slide bearing corresponding number provided above office to be voted.

As no votes are registered until the curtain lever is moved to open the curtain, you can make as many changes as you desire while the curtain lever is at the right side. The machine is so arranged that you can turn down only the proper number of pointers for each office, you cannot spoil your ballot by voting for too many candidates. In a grouped office to which more than one candidate is elected, you can turn down the exact number of pointers, but no more. Each candidate's pointer is located just above the name; a pointer must be turned down over the name of each candidate for whom you wish to vote. Leave pointers down. No one will know how you have voted because the movement of the curtain lever returns the voted pointers to the unvoted position before the curtain begins to open.

The above reproduction of the Instruction Ballot made available through the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce as a public service.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Explanation of City's April 5 Election Ballot

When registered Birmingham electors visit the polls next Monday, they will find they are being asked to vote on three city commissioners, two library board members, one constable, two city charter amendments, three city bond issues and two Oakland County propositions.

These voters will see that the voting machines will list these proposals as in the above reproduction of the Instruction Ballot.

This April 5 ballot is a bit unusual, in that it divides voters into three classifications, some of whom will not be able to vote on all questions.

By way of explanation, The Eccentric has marked on the left side of the above ballot the figures "1", "2", "3" and "4".

Any registered Birmingham elector may vote line "4", which is Oakland County Question No. 1. It asks if voters approve lifting the 15-mill limit for two years to permit the county to assess property for 2 mills to provide an addition to the present county Infirmary and Convalescent Hospital at Pontiac. This question must be passed by a 2/3 majority.

Two City Charter Amendments

Line "3" is reserved for the two city charter amendments—one to change the present method of assessing for sidewalks, and the second to permit assessment districts to be created for the purpose of oiling roads. Any registered Birmingham voter may also vote on these amendments, which will pass if a majority of voters approve them.

Any registered Birmingham voter may also vote Line "2" for the election of three city commissioners, the two library board members and the one constable. The commissioners will be elected for three-year terms, and the winners must obtain a plurality of votes cast in the election. There is no contest for the library board nor for constable, since only two persons have filed for the board and one person for constable.

Line "1" needs considerably more explanation, since these are propositions that only certain persons can vote upon. In this top line are the three city bond issue questions, as well as the Oakland County Question No. 2.

The three city bond issues ask:

Proposition Number One: A $100,000 bond issue "to construct extensions, additions and improvements to the sewerage system of the city."

$50,000 for Maple Bridge

Proposition Number Two: A $50,000 bond issue "to construct a bridge and approaches on Maple road over the Rouge River."

Proposition Number Three: A $50,000 bond issue "to improve and develop lands for park and recreational purposes."

ONLY THOSE ELECTORS OWNING REAL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY IN THE CITY ASSESSED FOR TAXATION and the husbands or wives of such electors may vote on these propositions. Such persons are also eligible to vote on County Question Number Two, which asks if a 2-mill tax shall be levied for 1948 and 1949 on assessable property in the county to provide money for the construction of an addition to the county Infirmary and Convalescent Hospital.

If the voter does not own real or personal property in the City of Birmingham yet does own such property elsewhere in the county, he is not eligible to vote on the city bond questions but may vote on county proposition Number Two.

The city bond issues must be approved by 3/5 of the voters, while the county proposal must obtain a simple majority to pass.

WHERE YOU VOTE IN APRIL 5 CITY ELECTION

Precinct 1—QUARTON SCHOOL
(Corner Chesterfield and Oak Streets)

Precinct 2—HOLY NAME SCHOOL
(620 Harmon Avenue)

Precinct 3—ADAMS SCHOOL
(Corner Adams and Oakland)

Precinct 4—MUNICIPAL BUILDING
(151 Martin Street)

Precinct 5—BELL FUNERAL HOME
(820 E. Maple, Elm St. Entrance)

Precinct 6—PIERCE SCHOOL
(1828 Pierce Street)

POLLS WILL BE OPEN FROM 7 A.M. TO 8 P.M.

Answers

(Continued from Page 1, Part 1)

provements. All maintenance is financed by general tax levy.

New improvements are financed chiefly by special assessment. The city's share of these improvements amounting to 15% of the total cost, plus the cost of improving street intersections, is paid for from the general taxes. However, I do not feel that the taxpayers should be unduly burdened at this time with new improvements unless the same are absolutely necessary.

Most maintenance and improvement work can proceed at the same time.

—o—

OSCAR P. PETERSON:

In response to your request for comments on one or more matters of community interest from candidates for the office of city commissioner, the following is submitted:

1. If the voters of Birmingham approve the bond issue of $50,000 for the development of city parks and recreational areas, it would seem to be only common sense to develop some parks and play areas to the extent that they would be in condition to use rather than try and spread it out thin on all ground the city owns. Some of this ground is located in the center of heavy population while some is located in thinly populated sections. I should favor developing the tracts where it will reach the greatest number of children and do the most good.

Guide Proper Selection

However, in this connection it is well to bear in mind the fact that we have a recreation commission set up by the joint action of the city and the school district. This commission should be able to guide the city commission in the proper selecton of parks and areas to develop. They should have data that would throw light on the number of children living in a certain area, the need and kind of playground required, and the extent that it should be developed. Personally, I would lean heavily on the information and recommendations of the recreational commission.

2. Your next question pre-supposes that I, as a candidate, must emphasize a program of developing arterial streets or those streets for which residents have petitioned improvements. As I understand the rules, if enough property owners petition for a certain street improvement and all the requirements are met, the members of the commission are obliged to put in those improvements whether they may personally place emphasis on arterial street development or not. That being the case, emphasis the other way would be meaningless.

Many Factors

On the other hand, it is common knowledge by all who drive over the streets of an arterial nature, that those streets are sadly in need of permanent improvements. Some have been that way for a long time. There are many factors that must be taken into consideration before paving a street not the least of which is cost. On the other hand before a street is paved all the underground work must be in place, such as adequate sewers and water mains. So it would appear that before any extensive paving program is started all the preliminaries should be out of the way.

To me, this period of high costs for everything seems a very poor time to launch a costly paving program on a very large scale. There may be a certain street or streets where all the other conditions have been met where it might be cheaper to pave than to try to maintain otherwise. Under more normal price conditions I would favor permanently improving arterial streets, or streets with heavy traffic where all the underground work was in and the street was too costly to keep up on any other basis. An adequate program looking forward to the improvement of ALL presently unimproved streets should be inaugurated.

3. To me your third question hardly needs comment. Since the responsibility of the city commission is to determine policy, safeguard the welfare and rights of the citizens, I do not feel that any major part of the commissioners' time and effort should be given to problems which are definitely departmental.

—o—

WILLIAM SMITH:

Herewith follow my answers to the questions asked of me in your letter of March 20, 1948:

1. The money should be spread equally over all parks or recreational areas. By this, I do not mean a division of the money right to the penny. Certain areas may require some things to bring them up to the level of others. Then all areas ought to be brought along evenly. This will eliminate charges of discrimination and prevent overcrowding of better equipped areas.

Depends on Present Need

2. Arterial streets, as I understand the term, are those which are owned and maintained by the city, but largely used by people who live outside its boundary. Therefore, while these arterial streets undoubtedly are included in the city's overall plan of improvement, I believe emphasis ought to be placed other than on arterial streets at this time. Whether the emphasis should be on the streets for which residents have petitioned for paving, should depend on the city's plan and present need. People are known by the streets on which they live.

3. The commission cannot efficiently operate the city's business within their field, by attending to one thing to the exclusion of other things. Nor can the commission pass responsibility for something chargeable to them. However, we have a city manager, and the items in (a) being largerly administrative, can better be handled by him and his department heads. Should conditions arise indicating a need for the commission's attention, it should be given then. I feel the commission should concentrate on (b).

—o—

GARLAND D. TAIT:

You have asked for my comment on three community problems which face the Birmingham City Commission. I appreciate the opportunity to present my views on these problems. My answers, which express my present general thinking on these problems, are submitted in the order in which the questions ahve been presented to me.

1. The need for park development in Birmingham has long been recognized. As the city grows it becomes increasingly imperative that park sites be provided and developed, and it is my position that the program of development should be one that will afford maximum convenience to all our residents.

If the bond issue which has been proposed for development of city parks and recreational areas is approved by the voters, I feel that the funds so made available should be used toward the development of all parks rather than for the complete development of one or two specified areas. If we start at the present time with the making of physical improvements such as grading, landscaping, tree-planting, and construction of playground sites in all park areas, I believe that the benefits will be greater and more general, and that more progress will be made toward development of a general city-wide park system than if the available funds were concentrated on specified parks. This seems to me to be the logical program of development and consistent with the purpose and intent of the bond issue.

Integrated Plan

2. First consideration should be given to the grading, gravelling, and maintenance of streets throughout the entire city, so each resident will be provided with reasonable access to his property. I make this comment so it will be understood that my position herein-after stated has reference only to permanent street improvements employing hard surfaces, such as asphalt or cement.

City development and growth should be on the basis of a definite and integrated plan. If development takes place in a piecemeal and haphazard fashion the result will be as unsatisfactory as a building constructed without a plan. The City of Birmingham should have and follow, as a part of its general plan of development, a city street plan, with certain designated arterial streets.

Streets other than those designated consistently with this plan, and the permanent improvement of such streets should not be unnecessarily deferred. It is my belief, however, that emphasis should be placed on the permanent improvement of arterial streets, to insure development in accordance with the general street plan.

Indispensible Functions

3. The maintenance of roads, water and sewage facilities, disposal of rubbish and garbage, and similar services are indispensable municipal functions which cannot be curtailed or postponed. Services of this nature must be provided, efficiently and adequately, in order to comply with essential health and safety requirements, and to maintain existing physical equipment. With respect to functions of this nature, I feel the City Commission has no choice but to make suitable and edequate provision.

The City of Birmingham should also be able to provide its share of such special assessment projects as are found to be desirable and necessary. If it should be impossible, however, to make provisions for all such projects, I believe the Commission should be governed by the question of urgency. Special assessment projects may, under some circumstances, be as essential and urgent as maintenance problems, and should, in such cases, receive equal consideration. Those projects which are, in their nature, desirable but not essential and urgent should be subordinated to more pressing problems.

Voters to Receive Election Pamphlet

A pamphlet, giving pertinent information about the issues and candidates to be voted on at the April 5th election, has been prepared by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with the League of Woman Voters and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Copies of this pamphlet, which presents its facts in an unbiased, non-partisan manner, will be mailed to some 4000 registered voters in the city.

Assembled and written by Jarvis McMechan in cooperation with representatives of the sponsoring groups, the pamphlet gives accurate details about the two proposed Charter Amendments, the three bond issues, and the Oakland County tax proposal which will appear on the ballot. In addition, the six candidates for the City Commission have contributed brief biographical statements.