

Candidates State Their Platforms

On a request of The Eccentric, the seven candidates for February 11 special primary election to provide nominees for the state legislature's third district post have reported their stands on state business expected in this session of the House.

The candidates' platforms appear here in alphabetical order:

Republicans

Stanley M. Brown:

"This year the legislature will take up, among other subjects, the following:

1. No new taxes are needed.
2. I favor an amendment such as the sales tax diversion amendment, which would put the schools on a current pay as you go basis. This would stabilize our educational system and result in economy of operation unknown to the present system, which causes the legislature to scurry for funds for the current year of school operation because of a wrong assumption from the prior years tax receipts, that so much would be available for the following year.
3. I favor an amendment to the Gross Receipts tax law that would allow building owners to use depreciation as a deduction. This would put them on an even basis with other business people who rent and can deduct their rent.

Election Laws: Four year terms for state officers will be discussed. This would stabilize the legislative body and produce more and better work.

Employment Practices: Extension of the Workmen's Compensation time period is recommended. Distress on pensions should be allowed to earn more money without forfeiting their pension.

Public Safety: I favor additional State Police. This force needs expansion to meet the needs of our ever expanding population and economy.

Allen C. Ingles:

"I will make only one campaign promise, and that is if I am elected I will remember that I am the servant of the people and will serve them to the best of my ability.

I believe a representative of the people should go to Lansing and act, as their eyes, ears and voice, and report back to them.

I am willing to give my time to do this and I feel my accounting and legal background qualify me to represent all of the people of this district."

Lawrence McKay, Jr.:

"On Election Laws—the 18-20-year-old is held responsible for performing military service, paying income taxes, and obeying laws. I believe that to these obligations should be added the obligation of voting. This privilege would then coincide with high school, college education and should greatly increase interest and participation by young people in government.

On FEPC—so long as this subject remains a political issue, I would not support it. Human relations cannot be legislated any more successfully than human behavior was benefited by the Eighteenth Amendment. Employment discrimination's stoniest front was maintained for years by big league baseball.

ELECTION LAWS:—It is true that some improvements could be made in our election laws. Some of the recommendations of the Election Law Study Commission will serve as a guide in this respect, and specifically, that portion which refers to the establishment of uniform qualifications for the selection of election inspectors.

However, our concern should first be with providing some guarantee for assuring that our present election laws are enforced. Codification of these laws would be advisable from an administration point of view and might also clarify some of the present omissions. Surely any principle worth writing into law should be sufficiently worthy to include penalties for those who do not obey that law.

Children's Services: We should find a way to build the proposed 120 bed Children's Psychiatric Hospital at Northville which would not duplicate the 75 bed unit approved for the University of Michigan by the legislature last year. This will relieve the immediate pressure, but from a more long range point of view, we should pursue the recent recommendations of the State Mental Health Commission.

PARTICULARLY, we should provide means for treating mental illnesses locally. As in penal problems, every dollar wisely spent at the preventive or remedial stage will save many times that amount which would later be spent for confinement and correction. Regarding the detention of children, the New man report should serve as a guide for future legislation.

Employment Practices: It is encouraging to note that the basic safeguards that would be incorporated in any FEPC legislation now have support from both parties. Surely our state legislators should be able to iron out enough of the remaining points of controversy to be able to give us that most important part by adopting some FEPC legislation this current session. Unemployment Compensation benefits should be extended to 26 weeks. Workmen's Compensation should be liberalized to

increase benefits to injured workers. Specific loss scales should be revised."

THE ADMINISTRATION of the government's business must be improved and made more efficient. Action on some of the proposals of the "Little Hoover" committee should no longer be postponed—particularly the consolidation of licensing agencies and health services.

Present methods of distributing state aid to schools cannot go unchallenged. The complete education of our children in these specialized fields will not allow us to tolerate some of the existing procedures. Our yardstick must take into greater consideration the ability of a local community to finance and help itself. Insufficiently educated children in any part of the state is costly to all of us.

Then two gentlemen, Messrs. Branch Bailey and Jack Robinson, became associated in an experiment which has been so incredibly successful that within a few years it has visibly changed the attitude of Americans across the nation. Neither franchise nor law accomplished this. When Christian people of good will get together, determined to dispel a prejudice or defeat an injustice, it will be done.

ON TAXATION:—The tax structure of Michigan should be revised for streamlining and elimination of inequities. The State Sales Tax should be made to operate on a current basis, thus circumventing the retroactive effect of the act which could be financially very embarrassing in a time of decreasing revenue. Similarly, diverting money to townships on the basis of demonstrable need would have, I believe, a remarkable hearing effect on the entire fiscal picture.

An effort should be made to remove inequities from the franchise tax. It should be possible to produce an equal amount of revenue much more easily from a tax basis of ability to pay rather than net worth. Operating efficiently within income should be the main goal of the State Government.

On services—I favor a long-term planned program for children's psychiatric and guidance facilities. Our prison system should be adjusted to the fact that rehabilitation is very difficult with intermingling of hardened criminals, psychiatric cases, perverts, and "lost-timers."

ON THE FINANCIAL responsibility law—many times the injured seriously, physically and financially, without practical results. The liability insurance picture is further worsened by finance companies that write great masses of insurance to cover their own interests in automobiles, completely neglecting the driver's legal and moral obligations.

At the bottom of the appalling slaughter and property damage toll is an ineffective law enforcement, sometimes through personnel shortage, as in the case of the Michigan State Police, sometimes through what appears to be nothing more than lack of interest, as in the case of many municipal departments. If the situation is not firmly and intelligently handled in the very near future, it will be worth a man's life, or his family's, to leave the house."

Richard C. Van Dusen:

"The best government, in my view, is that which is closest to the people it serves. The basic standards by which I will judge legislation are: (1) Does it lie within the scope of government responsibility, or should its objectives be left to the individual citizen? and (2) What is the smallest unit of government which can practically carry out this program?"

With respect to some of the specific problems facing this legislative session, I would favor revision of the overall state tax structure, preferably through a constitutional convention, to eliminate earmarking of state funds without regard to need.

The state can probably operate with substantially less than its present revenues if the money which it receives is distributed on a sound basis.

IF, FOR EXAMPLE, the state could recapture the money which it presently distributes to townships which levy no local taxes, we could have available to us funds which it badly needs for such capital improvements as a new prison and new mental health facilities.

Relationships between employers and employees, it seems to me, are problems which can best be solved by the individuals themselves, without the intervention of government, except in such obvious fields as those already covered by child-labor and minimum wage laws.

Our system of government is based on the integrity and responsibility of each individual citizen. Every citizen should be able to expect the highest standards of integrity from his elected representatives. At the same time, representatives serving in government should remember that the objectives of government should be service, not interference or control."

Stanley M. Brown:

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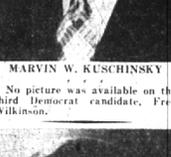
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MARVIN W. KUSCHINSKY



JOHN C. WESTERDALE



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JOHN C. WESTERDALE



RICHARD C. VAN DUSEN



LAWRENCE MCKAY, JR.



ALLEN C. INGLES



STANLEY M. BROWN

Democrats

Marvin W. Kuschinsky:

"Townships and certain villages require one percent to four percent of the total number of registered voters in that township for a candidate to place his name for nomination. Cities—no set rule. County, certain state and national primaries require one per cent to four per cent of total number of votes cast for Secretary of State for each party.

Because of these facts, I would support revision of the election laws to a standard practice for all primary and general elections—also some other changes relative to these election laws as recommended by the County Clerks' Association.

This special election is costing you, the taxpayer, indirectly, some where around \$2500. This is not an isolated case. There have been others in the past year—one involving five counties.

If THE LAWS were changed or amended to give the governor the right to appoint a successor in such a case as this, the money could be used for other purposes.

I advocate that change. I also favor a lower voting age to whatever can be decided among the legislators.

We all know that something must be done about our penal institutions. Wherever there is a great number of people crowded into a limited area there is bound to be trouble. I advocate building smaller institutions. These could be financed through long term bond issue if no other funds are available.

The field of taxation in a large number of areas there is bound to be trouble. I advocate building smaller institutions. These could be financed through long term bond issue if no other funds are available.

Our work construction of the past sessions of our legislators has levied some unjust taxes. Of this we are all aware.

WE ARE PAST due on new and constructive planning on this problem of taxation. It is such a big job it would be impossible for me to go into detail at this time.

But don't forget the legislature makes the laws!

Some people are of the opinion that because I am a factory worker, keeping the wheels of progress turning into the field of industry, I am not capable of handling this job.

Because I have taken an interest in my state, I have studied its laws and the Constitution. I feel I am able to keep the wheels of progress turning in the field of lawmaking.

John C. Westerdale:

"State Taxation: It may be that we do not have sufficient state tax revenue provided we can devise ways of distributing it more on the basis of the need of the local community. We must find means of eliminating the present inequities in property assessments for taxation purposes, both within the counties and throughout the state.

The Sales Tax Diversion amendment should be revised in favor of a plan that will return state tax money to schools and local governments more nearly on a basis of need. I do not think that Rep. Conlin's proposal for revising the Sales Tax Diversion amendment continues the undesirable practice of earmarking taxes in the Constitution, which would prefer a constitutional plan that guarantees legislative appropriations to schools on a basis of current need.

Fred Wilkinson:

"For the present session, taxation does not seem to be on the agenda because of the revenue levy proposed for next year. I do believe that in this, or later sessions, a complete revision of the state tax structure should be considered.

One of the paramount issues before legislatures is the Fair Employment Practices law. I am in favor of this legislation.

On aid to agriculture I would support aid for marketing improvements. This should help growers to better compete with out-of-state producers. Legislators should also examine the differences between the prices paid to the farmer and those paid by the consumer.

I AM IN FAVOR of increasing the number of state policemen. Known persons should be added to enable two men should be added to each patrol. This would cut down highway accidents and bring about speedier apprehension of law-breakers.

I am also in favor of smaller prisons and think that the idea of establishing an institution for first offenders is a good idea. We must remember that the basic principle of a prison is for rehabilitation rather than punishment.

As for children's services, I believe that the home should be the first place to teach children the duties of citizenship. From the standpoint I would favor any service properly administered that would help reduce juvenile delinquency. It should be conducive to bringing up good citizens. These services would include medical as well as other facilities.

IF THERE BE any other matters that I have not touched upon, I would weigh each issue on an all-around basis and then would oppose or support each according to whether I believe it was or was not in the best interests of the people of the entire state in my honest opinion and judgment."

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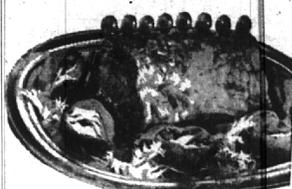
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