

# Remedy Emphasizes Delegate Impartiality

## Says Con-Con Transcends Politics

By George Romney

Republican Party Candidate  
Oakland County-at-Large

For this special article in The Birmingham Eclectic, I would like to re-emphasize a few points I made at Saturday's annual Oakland County Republican "Family Fun Day".

Permit me to bring these excerpts from my speech that day to your attention again:

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"A Constitution is the foundation for orderly government. It is — or should be — a simple statement of fundamental law. It is a document which reflects the wisdom of all the people, expressing the principles and rules of government under which they choose to live.

"ITS SUCCESS depends on a general meeting of minds — a substantial consensus — as to these principles and rules, so that citizens generally throughout the state understand them and broadly accept them as the best articles of faith in government that could be devised.

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"A Constitutional Convention by the mechanism by which the people achieve a common understanding and agreement in identifying and expressing the framework within which not only the people as individuals but also their social, economic and political institutions are to be governed.

"In the political values its function is of a higher order than the function of a Governor, a Legislature, Supreme Court, or the political parties. It is superior to all of these in the sense that it establishes the framework for their subsequent actions.

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"BOTH THE convention and the parties are organized for the resolution of differences, but the Convention's approach is on a statewide, non-partisan basis, affecting all the people, while the parties and others deal with essential but less basic problems

within the framework of established Constitutional provisions. The Constitutional Convention, finally and simply, is a mechanism for the specific and fundamental purpose of assisting in the expression of the sovereign power of a free society of inalienable rights and power of its citizens. It is responsible directly to them as sovereign individuals. It is not and cannot be responsive or responsible to groups whose existence depends upon the Constitution whether they are public or private groups. Acting for the people, the Convention recommends for their approval or disapproval those fundamental principles and rules that shall govern public and private groups. This includes the courts, whose responsibility rendering just decisions uninfluenced by other agencies of government or political parties, is widely understood.

"AGAINST THIS background, what is the role and position of the Convention delegate? I believe there is a considerable amount of dialogue and agreement in identifying and expressing the framework within which not only the people as individuals but also their social, economic and political institutions are to be governed.

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with specific and changing issues, some general but many local in character. The delegate has a right and a responsibility to present the specific problems of his locality, and to seek special action that does not impair the general rights of all.

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"THE CONVENTION delegate has an opposite responsibility — to secure certain basic rights for all, and to establish the rules for government that preserve individual rights, protect minorities from the unlimited rule of the majority and permit special interests to be expressed where they do not jeopardize legitimate rights of others or the public interest.

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"The opportunity for accomplishment is great.

"FIRST THE Convention process itself with its public discussion of the basic issues of government, contributes to better citizen understanding of the processes of representative government. There is urgent need for this, considering the circumstances in Michigan, the nation and the world.

"Second, the approach to necessary consensus involves a broad and equitable representation and achievement of a greater degree of confidence and respectability. This must have. For too long we have emphasized our conflicts and differences and have again recognize and emphasize our superior common interests in the concept of a Constitution. A recent emphasis on our special interests.

"In resolving the issues that led to the Convention call can result in the removal of existing shackles on the effective functioning exercise of local and state government in accordance with the responsibilities under the Federal Constitution.

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"The opportunity to review

the framework of government as a whole makes possible construction of new and better framework suitable for today's conditions and flexibly adaptable to those of the foreseeable future, both for local and state government.

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"ALTHOUGH we are dealing with the State Constitution, we keep stressing the opportunity for local government as well as the government at Lansing, because strengthening government at the local and state levels is the most effective way to stop the trend toward excessive centralization of power in the hands of the Federal Government.

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"Fourth and finally, the Constitutional Convention offers us the opportunity to improve the national image of Michigan as a state that meets its citizenship responsibilities and effectively resolves its governmental and fiscal problems, and it opens the door to the development of greater economic, social and cultural progress.

"With men and women of capacity running for an office of honor and respectability, I have the fullest confidence that the forthcoming assembly of delegates can and will produce an effective and modern document that will reunite this state on the fundamentals of free government. And I am not relying on blind faith for this confidence, but on the record of past constitutional conventions in Michigan. The record, it states, indicates that the occasion inspires delegates to rise to it. Rarely, however, has the occasion of the convention process in our history, whatever the degree of public misgiving might have been before the fact.

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"The opportunity to review

# Be More Specific Representation

## O'Brien Challenges His Opponent

By William A. O'Brien

Democratic Party Candidate  
Oakland County-at-Large

Thank you for inviting an expression of my views on the issues in the Sept. 12 Constitutional Convention Delegate election, and to inform your readers of the opinions of the various candidates.

Unfortunately, my Republican opponent, Mr. Romney has been too busy with the autom-

erment.

I cannot agree with this "don't ask me what I stand on and then I'll study it" attitude adopted by my Republican opponent. I believe the voters have a right to know before election day where the candidates stand on the issues.

centers will be restored to first-class citizenship.

UNLESS THE residents of Oakland County have their votes counted just as much, not any more, not any less, than those of residents in all other parts of the state, no progress can be made in coming up with an effective and streamlined Constitution.

The six Con-Con candidates of principal concern to Birmingham-Bloomfield voters on Sept. 12 are those from Oakland County's 3rd and 4th Districts, plus the County-at-Large. At the invitation of The Birmingham Eclectic, they wrote these articles dealing with Con-Con issues. They also have asked to continue their remarks in a second special page to be published Sept. 7.

My position is that unless representative government is restored in the Michigan Legislature, the whole work of the Constitutional Convention will have been wasted. The question is whether or not Oakland County and other population

I MOST emphatically disagree with the present setup in the Michigan House of Representatives which permits one representative for Oakland County's 3rd District (Birmingham and Bloomfield area) with 130,000 people, and also permits one representative in the House district outside of Oakland County with only about 30,000 people.

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# Equal Voting Rights Will Be Convention's Main Issue

By Asher N. Tilchin

Democratic Party Candidate  
3rd District, Oakland County

Legislative reapportionment — the matter of fair representation of all the citizens in the state legislature — is the most important issue facing Michigan voters and the Constitutional Convention delegates they will elect Sept. 12.

Unfortunately, this matter of equal voting rights has become a partisan issue. Democrats generally favor what I define simply as one vote for every citizen. Republicans generally evade the issue when they can and are opposed to it when pinned down.

It is a fact — and non-partisan groups agree — that today in Michigan's Senate, representatives of only 33 percent of the people can do the bidding of representatives of 67 percent of the people. And the citizens of Oakland County — Democrats and Republicans alike — are among those who have only fractional votes.

is only a fraction as important as the vote of a citizen in another area of Michigan. Our 12th Senatorial District has 300,000 people, but only one representative. The state of Michigan elects 396,000 people, but only 126,000 representatives. Our 3rd Senatorial District has 130,000 people, but only one representative. This is not fair. Our 3rd Senatorial District has 130,000 people, but only one representative. This is not fair. Our 3rd Senatorial District has 130,000 people, but only one representative. This is not fair.

# Purpose and Pride Can Be Restored at Convention

By Richard C. Van Dusen

Republican Party Candidate  
4th District, Oakland County

The Constitutional Convention offers to Michigan citizens a significant opportunity for progress.

Properly approached and conducted, the Convention can not only produce a better, more workable constitution, but in the process it can restore to Michigan citizens a sense of purpose and pride in our state. It can also help to erase a national impression that Michigan is a state which is financially irresponsible, politically deadlocked, and declining economically and industrially.

TO ATTAIN these objectives, the delegates must recognize the responsibility of the Convention is not to any limited partisan, group, but to the entire citizenry of Michigan. They must come together prepared to respect the viewpoints of each of their fellow delegates, with the objective of reaching agreement on fundamental principles of government acceptable to the vast majority of Michigan citizens.

THE EXECUTIVE branch of government is charged with the responsibility of enforcing the laws of this state as initiated by the legislature and interpreted by the courts. Unfortunately, time has changed the complexion of the executive branch of government. The present system of appointment which gives an individual citizen one-twelfth the representation of a citizen of Baraga must be changed. The present system of appointment which gives an individual citizen one-twelfth the representation of a citizen of Baraga must be changed.

# Broad Score Needed For Space-Age Constitution

By Thomas G. Kavanagh

Democratic Party Candidate  
4th District, Oakland County

The most important problem before the constitutional convention will be that of reestablishing effective government and a sense of purpose and pride in our state.

Because the present unjust appointment of our Legislature has permitted a few willful men to block effectively any program of government — Democratic or Republican — our state government has been brought to a halt on dead center.

OUR PRESENT Constitution was adopted in 1908, and students of history and government agree that it truly reflects the needs of a political philosophy living at the turn of the century and our antique constitution does not meet the needs of the 20th Century.

THE PUBLIC is entitled to have responsible persons in those positions responsible to the will of the people. This can only be accomplished by maintaining the popular election of judges.

# Makes Federalism an Of Representation in Legislature

By Henry J. Woolfenden

Republican Party Candidate  
3rd District, Oakland County

There is much misunderstanding of the problem of reapportionment of the Michigan legislature which has arisen before the Constitutional Convention.

Many people mistakenly believe reapportionment to be a partisan issue, but this is not so. Reapportionment is just as serious a problem in Georgia and other "one-party" southern states as it is here in Michigan.

If reapportionment is not a partisan issue, what is the problem essentially?

The problem is to provide representation to the Michigan legislature on some basis which give adequate representation to the majority; and at the same time protecting the rights of out-state citizens from being ignored or "steam-rollered" by the majority.

WHAT IS WRONG with the present apportionment of our Michigan legislature?

Our present method of apportionment is indefensible because it is with the exception of our state — and this includes the "one-party" southern states as it is here in Michigan.

Both the House and the Senate are controlled by legislators who represent only a minority of our citizens.

This abuse of representative government must be corrected. The Michigan legislature must provide adequate representation for the majority; and at the same time protecting the rights of out-state citizens from being ignored or "steam-rollered" by the majority.

By adopting and adapting to the present apportionment of representation conceived by the founding fathers of our nation and embodied in the Federal Constitution which provides that each state is represented in the House of Representatives on the basis of population size, while in the Senate each state, regardless of size, is represented by two Senators.

Thus New York state has 43 representatives and two Senators whereas its neighbor Delaware is entitled to only one representative and yet has representation equal to New York and every other state in the Senate.

This unequal representation between the House and Senate is an essential part of the basic structure of checks and balances" which is the unique

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As a MEMBER of the State Bar committee on judicial selection and tenure, I have engaged with other lawyers in considering the merits of a straight law firm system. As a former member of the faculty of Detroit College of Law, I have had the opportunity to work with students in school. I have some familiarity with educational programs. I have been active in the Re-

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