They Say Vote Yes

Modernize the Government of Our State

"CONSTITUTION
If state government is to be
doernized in this decade, the
sople of Michigan must vote in
wor of the proposed constitution
a April 1.
The chance is here and the time
now. Fractically speaking,
nere will not be another oppormity such as this one for many
sers to come.

tunity such as tins one for my pears to come.

An automatic call for a Constitutional Convention will not appear on the healtot again until the control of t

THERE IS even less likelihood of another dramatic citizen peti-tion drive for a Con-Con. Michi-gan has had its Con-Con. It was

a good one.
Amendments could never accomplish the total overhaul of the
present outmoded constitution
which the 144 delegates to the
Constitutional Convention have

done.

Now these delegates offer the voters of Michigan a well stated document capable of serving the state today, yet flexible enough not to limit future growth. Those who would see Michigan make progress urge a YES vote April 1.

A CROSS SECTION

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The delegates to the Constitutional Convention were a varied,
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Hom industrial lawyers.

There were 11 women delegates who were housewives, teachers and lawyers. There were representatives of various racial

sentatives of value groups.

In short, the convention delegates were a cross section of Michigan today. They agreed and they disagreed. They were typical!

they disagreed. They were typical!

AT THE END of the convention, 98 of the delegates voted their approval of the proposed constitution, 48 of the proposed constitution, 48 opposed it. The 98 came from districts representing the proposed state of the convention. The state A 99th delegate voted against the decument at the close of the convention.

After comparing the alternative, he has now changed his position and is actively supporting the campaign for a YES vote. The convention of the conven

sections, whereas the present one has 17.

It it also the reason the constitution cannot be presented to the voters in controversial present and non-controversial present and one-controversial present more decement with its sections consistent with each other. Even its phrase-logy is consistent. The Committee on Style and Drafting kept a card file of phrases so that those constitution are reused and mean the same thing in other parts.

YER BY NO.

the same thing in other pures.
YES OR NO
It is now the task of each voter
to compare what the proposed
constitution offers as a framework for government with what
the state has under the present

the state has under the present constitution.

The voter has only a "yes" or "no" choice. There will be no lever on the voting machine under "maybe." Those who see the new constitution as better than the 70-times-amended 1000 one will vote "yes." They will rest that no 7-they will result that no 7-they will result that no retain the new document. This will always be the case with any document written at a truly democratic convention.

THE CHANGES the new constitution will make in the structure of state government have considered to the constitution of the con

these changes are worth reviewing in brief.
Essentially, the proposed constitution (New Con) offers a
stitution (New Con) offers of
the constitution of the conpresent of the contive, legislative and judicial—
while keeping or strengthening
traditional checks and balances.
It offers provisions for local
government (such as county
home rule and recognition of
metropolitan a rea problems)
which add a rea problems in ways suitsolve local problems in ways suit-

BY THE OAKLAND COUNTY NON-PARTISAN COMMITTEE in the state.

ed to the variety of local Areas in the state.

RIGHTS ASSURD

It offers an improved education extended to the state of the state today.

In the field of finance and taxation, the proposed constitution has made state because the state today.

In the field of finance and taxation, the proposed constitution has made state today.

In the field of finance and taxation, the proposed constitution has made state to the state today.

New Con has retained the field in the state of the state of the today of the state of the state of the exercise of civil and political rights without discrimination. It establishes a bi-partisan offer this guarantee.

Given the state of t

UNDER NEW Con the poorly attended spring election will be eliminated and state, county and township officials will be elected in November of even numbered

in November of even numbered years. He most conservative Even to the saving due to this changer alone as half a million dollars per election. Some of the best improvements in government offered by the New Con are in the article on the executive branch. Provisions clarify lines of authority and add efficiency and economy to state government.

AD BOARD STATUS

AD BOARD STATUS

The governor's term will be lengthened to four years, as will the term of the second of the secon

will be appointed.

ADMINISTRATIVE agencies in Michigan today, like dandelions, have "just grown." There is a sprawling complex of some thing over 126, many performed thing over 126, many performed thing over 126, many performents, with the governor given power both to appoint (with consent of the senate) and remove most department heart of Michigan today and Michigan as it could be shows the voter the more difficient form the executive branch will have with the governor as a true executive, not provided the committee.

With department heads reporting directly to the governor directly to the governor indirectly to the governor directly of the governor directly of the governor directly to the governor directly of the governor directly d

at re-election time.

BALANCING THE BUDGET

Sound fiscal planning is encouraged in the provisions in several articles. The governor must

present a balanced budget which
includes surpluses of deficits from
the previous year as a budget
item, and an estimate of revenues.

item, and an estimate or resistent, and an estimate or proposed expenditures exceed anticipated revenue, he must submit bills to provide sufficient additional revenue.

The legislature in turn must pass the general appropriation for passing any bill for non-budget items.

THE PROPOSED constitution provides much more representative apportionment of both the house and senate. It provides for periodic reapportionment every 10 years, as soon as census figures are available.

The provides of the provides for periodic reapportionment is clearly defined assemble point at which reapportionment scheme in many states have failed.

It is enforceable because it will be done by a bipartian commission appointed by the political parties rather than by the legislature's trying to realign its own districts.

districts.

The commission must work within a 180-day time limit; submit different plans to the state supreme court should it fail to agree.

agree.

The apportionment provisions of the proposed constitution preof the proposed constitution pre-vent gerrymandering as they are based on mathematically measur-able quantities and call for single member districts, compact, con-venient and contiguous by land.

MORE FOR OUR AREA

MORE FOR OUR AREA
The proposed house apportionment is very close to a straight
population formula and will give
immediate improvement to the
representation of the OaklandWayne-Macomb area.
Today, these three counties

have 47 representatives. Under New Con, according to 1960 census figures, they will get 52 members of the 110-member house. (Onking). Increased weight is given to population in the apportionment plan for the senate where today's 34 freed-boundary districts are expanded to 380 meter to peri-odic reapportionment.

odic reapportionment.

POPULATION is the basis of 80 per cent of apportionment to 10 per cent of apportionment to 10 per cent of apportionment to 10 per cent of 10 per cen

A NEW DIMENSION

A NEW DIMENSION
Apportionment was one of the
many areas of the constitution in
which some compromise was
called for: Outstate rural interests would naturally have preferred present provisions; the
AFL-CIO has stood for population as the sole basis for both
houses.

tion as the sole basis for both houses.

A new function has been introduced into any discussion of introduced into any discussion of the property of the theory of the theory introduced into any the U. S. Supreme Court decision that courts have jurisdiction in this matter. Apportionment is an area in which guidelines may evolve as the U. S. Supreme Court rules on many apportionment cases from many apportions of the following the courts will become the rule of the land in all 50 states.

courts will occume the land in all 50 states.

THUS, apportionment, which is the most controversial issue surounding the adoption of the proposed constitution, is an issue which in the end will probably not be decided in Michigan. Voters would do well to look instead to the many other areas of improvement, in mind that he New Con does offer immediate improvement in apportionment with measurable rules. Other changes in the legislative article call for four-year terms for senators and committee sessions and hearings open to the public.

A UNIFIED SYSTEM

A UNIFIED SYSTEM

A UNIFIED SYSTEM
Recognition is given in the
judicial article to the concept of
unified court system—one court
divided into a supreme court, a
court of appeals (new and much
needed!), circuit court, probate
diction (to epphase court and outer, probate
side to the court of the court and outer
the court and outer of immitted juris
dictions (to epphase court commissioners within five years.
This discussion touches upon
temprovements in but a few of
12 articles. The list could continue.

tinue.

Perhaps in closing it might be appropriate to list some of the nonpartisan citizen organizations supporting adoption of the new constitution as well as to point out those who oppose it.

out those who oppose it.

IN THIS latter group, urging a "no" vote are Michigan State Armore and the state of the state of

ship Association.

THESE GROUPS urre you to be at the polls and vote "Yes" April 1 (all have joined together in the Coordinating Committee for the New Constitution): American Association of University Women, Detroit Bar American Association of University Women, Detroit Bar American Association of University Women, Detroit Bar American Commerce, League of Women Voters of Michigan Methigan Matricultural Conference, Michigan Michigan Methigan Gongreed, Michigan Association of the Professions, Michigan Congreed, Michigan Farm Bureau.

Michigan Junior Chamber of Commerce. Michigan Farm Bureau.

Michigan Bureau.

Michigan Municipal League, Michigan State Chiropractic Association, Michigan State Medical Society, Oakland County Citterar League, United Church Women of Michigan.

TI SY VITAL for the success

IT IS VITAL for the success of the proposed constitution that those who believe in the oppor-tunity it offers for Michigan to move ahead vote April 1. Apathy could hurt New Con more than its opponents!

THEY STATE THE FACTS

Review Highlights Of New Document

By THE CITIZENS RESEARCH COUNCIL OF MICHIGAN At the general election on April 1, 1963, the registered electors of Michigan will vote on the adoption of the revised constitution proposed by the constitutional convention which adjourned on Aug. 1, 1962. The question presented to the voters will be:

Shall the revised constitution be adopted?

to the voters will be:
Shall the revised constitution be adopted?
() Yes () No
If the revised constitution is approved by a majority of those voting on the question, it will take effect on Jan. 1, 1964.
The first Michigan constitution, framed in 1835, was a short, unrestrictive instrument (similar to the federal constitution). In 1850 a detailed and restrictive constitution was adopted which averaged close to an amendment per year until it was replaced by the constitution of 1908 which is presently in effect.
The convention of 1907-08 made many changes in arrangement and phraseology and added new features but did not produce a thorough or basic revision of the 1850 constitution. The present constitution has had 70 amendments in its 54 years.

constitution in the present constitution has had 70 amendments in its 54 years.

VOTING ON adoption of a state constitution is a rare and vital opportunity. Very few of Michigan's citizens have ever had the opportunity to vote on the adoption of a new constitution. Only men now over 75 years of age would have had this opportunity in 1908.

The proposed constitution must be voted on as a whole and the voter is called upon to decide whether or not it would be a better instrument of effective and responsible government than the one now in effect. The highlights of the profosed constitution are discussed below.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

The traditional rights guaranteed in the present constitution were retained. A new provision was added to guarantee fair treatment in legislative and executive investigations and hearings to all individuals, firms, corporations
and volantary associations. An "appeal as a matter of
right," was guaranteed to an accused person in all criminal
prosecutions.

A new proprision was also added to guarantee equal pro-

prosecutions.

A new provision was also added to guarantee equal protection of the laws and civil and political rights without discrimination bedause of religion, race, color or national origin.

A civil rights commission was given constitutional status (in the executive article) which would concern itself with discrimination as related to civil rights guaranteed by the constitution and by law.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

Representatives would continue to have a two-year term. Senators would have a four-year rather than the present two-year term. The House of Representatives would have 100 members and the Senate would have 38 rather than the present 34 members. Both houses of the legislature would be more representative of population than they are at the present time. By requiring counties or groups of counties to have seventenths of one per cent of the state's population, rather than one-half of one per cent as at present, for a seat in the House of Representatives, this house was placed on a hasis more closely approaching straight population along county lines.

THE SENATE apportionment process under the proposed constitution would assign seats to counties according to numerical factors which give 80 per cent weight to population and 20 per seat of the seat

THE METHOD of "equal proportions" used for assignment of U. S. House of Representative seats among the states is required for allotment of additional seats in bot states is required for allotment of additional seats in bot houses of the legislature beyond those initially alloted. A bipartisan apportionment commission is prescribed to carry out the original apportionment (1964) of both houses and their reapportionment after each federal census.

houses and their reapportionment after each reueral census.

The supreme court would have power to enforce imple-mentation of a plan of apportionment or reapportionment valid under the provisions.

Valid under the provisions.

LEGISLATIVE POWERS—In general, the legislature would have a wider area in which to exercise discretion as a result of an over-all reduction of restrictive provisions in the proposed constitution.

The legislature is newly allowed to authorize a joint committee to suspend regulations issued by administrative agencies when the legislature is not in regular session until the end of the next regular session.

The legislature would appoint an auditor general who would conduct fiscal and performance post audits. The present office of auditor general is an elective executive officer. The legislature would also be required to establish a bipartisan council to perform service functions for it.

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

Four of the present elective executive officers would continue to be elected: the governor and lieutenant governor (jointly), secretary of state and attorney general. These four officers would be elected for four-year terms in 1966 and thereafter. At present they have two-year terms.

in 1966 and thereafter. At present they have two-year terms.

The state treasurer would be appointed by the governor; the auditor general would be appointed by the legislature; the superintendent of public instruction and the highway commissioner (presently elected under statutory author-ity) would be appointed by boards.

ity) would be appointed by poarros:

EXECUTIVE ORGANIZATION—The present constitution prescribes no limit on the number of executive departments and agencies. The governor is relatively weak in executive power and administrative functions are fragmented among scores of departments and agencies most which are headed by boards and commissions.

The proposed constitution would strengthen the executive power of the governor and make administrative reorganization mandatory. It would impose a miximum of 20 principal departments among and within which all executive and administrative agencies, except institutions of higher education and temporary agencies, are to be consolidated "as far as practical according to major purposes."

Poses.

After the initial allocation, the governor would have continuing authority to reorganize the executive branch; if any such changes "require the force of law." the governor would submit executive orders to the legislature to become effective when designated by him unless disapproved within 60 days by a majority vote in each house

They Say Vote No

Poor Features Outweigh the Better Ones

BY THE OAKLAND COUNTY CITIZENS COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION

CTIZENS COMMITTEE IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTION The Dakland County Citizens Committee in Opposition to the Proposed Constitution is urging a "NO" vote on April 1 for many reasons, but due to the limits of space, will the due to the limits of space, will the due to the limits of space, will the limit of the major points.

First, while readily admitting that there are many good parts in the new Constitution, we feel that the bad features far outsigh the good and that the adoption of the to the detriment of Michigan's futures.

THE APPORTIONMENT section is at best no better than that which we presently have. The vast majority of Michigan's population will have no greater voices in the government they have presently have. The vast majority of Michigan's population will have no greater voices in the government, we can expect no more from our legislature than we get today.

In the area of education, its leadership and financing, we do find particular fault. By changing the office of state superintendent of schools from the second of the document of the would create a peculiar type of official.

Here we have an officer who does not represent the people as the appears before legislative committees, but merely represents another committees.

WHAT POLITICS?

WHAT POLITICS?

WHAT POLITICS?

By adopting the new constitution we would, as its proponents
say, "remove education from
politics." But what kind of
"politics" Only that type of
the prople would be eliminated.

In its place would be submitted
the infighting and politics of
a four-man committee. Upon reflection, it becomes quite evident
that a man appointed by a board
to please it and the evident
to please of the committee to
remain in office and the will of
the people is dropped by the wayside.

finances, we find a real mess.
Here, one sees the elimination
of the State Primary Interest
Fund. It is a distinct loss of some
\$80,000,000 annually that previously went directly into educa-

onsly went directly into education.

We would be forced to throw ourselves upon the mercy of the Legislature even more than today to obtain adequate monies for scheols.

This would be fine, if we could trust the Legislature, but past actions show that we cannot and

As a public service to the criters of Birmingham and the crea. The Eccentric presents on this page articles by an Oakland County group endorsing the proposed new state constitution; a county group opposing that document; and a non-partisan, nonpolitical organization, stating the facts only. The purpose is to provide a guide to help our readers reach a decision when they go to the polls on April 1.

the new constitution does nothing to better the composition of the Legislature.

INTOLERABLE PORTION

IN LOOKING at the sales tax provision of the new constitution, we find some significant changes. First, where the present constitution states that two cents out of every four cents collected shall be used for education, the new one says that 50 per cent of government is retained unchanged, but the legislature is required to provide by general law the procedure by which any county may frame, amend or repeal a charter. The general law many permit county government to the government of the second of the secon

or the legislature.

INCREASED POWER of Appointment, Removal and Supervision-Single executives and board or commissions heading principal departments which has been redefined to mean "subject to Senate confirmation which has been redefined to mean "subject to disproval by a majority vote" of those elected to and serving in the Senate within "ment "shall stand confirmed."

Single executives heading varianced."

confirmed."
Single executives heading principal departments would "serve at the pleasure of the governor."
The governor's power to remove any executive or administrative officer for cause would be effective at all times rather than only when the legislature is not in session as at present.

ations on the taxing power of local units have been eased.

EDUCATION

The most important feature in the education was the radial choice in the role of the state-board of education whose main duty at present is to control and supervise four state universities which have evolved from teachers colleges.

The state of THE JUDICIAL BRANCH THE JUDICIAL BRANCH
The proposed constitution emphasizes the concept of a unified
judicial system and increases assureme court's judicial and abministrative supervision of their courts in the system.
A new intermediate court of
appeals, ashordinate only to the
supreme court, would be established.

COURTS OF limited jurisdiction are to be established by the legislature and the offices of justice of the peace and circuit court commissioner are to be abolished within five years. Judges would remain elective on a nonpartisan

remain elective on a nonparusam-basis. The governor's present power to fill judicial vacancies by appoint-ment (until the next election) would be eliminated. Retirel judges would be assigned. Retirel judges would be assigned by a supreme court to such vacancies until they are filled by deciden. Incumbent judges may file affi-davits of candidary for re-alection or renomination.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

pose.

However, we can look for a peculiar situation to arise if the Legislature should cut the sales tax. The educational return could be one-and-a-half cents out of

INTOLERABLE PORTION
We find in the new constitution
to the find in the new constitution
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IN LOOKING at the sales tax

UNDER THE proposed consti-tution "additional forms of gov-ernment" may be established in metropolitan areas by law-for the performance of multipurpose functions.

Authorization by general law is also required for two or more of any local units of some of the con-tral properties of the con-tral properties

THE PROPOSED constitution also specifies that each principal department "shall be under the supervision of the governor" unless a otherwise constitutionally specified. ministration of constitutional and statutory provision from in favor of local units of government. Debt limitations and limitations and limitations on the taxing power of local units have been eased.

res s total specified.

This exception would be applicable to a few agencies having constitutional status. The governor is given authority under specified procedure for an executive budget and for control of state expenditures.

supreme court, would be estab-lished. This new court would relieve the supreme court of some of its present and future appellate leads decisions are quasi-judicial capacita decisions are all the variety and with a first private rights or licenses "shall be subject to direct review by the courts as provided by law."

THE UNIVERSITY of Michigan, Michigan State University and Wayne State University would continue to have elective boards of control. All other four-year state universities and colleges (seven at present) would have separate boards of control appointed by the governor.

FINANCE AND TAXATION

The proposed constitution pro-hibits imposition of a graduated income tax by the state or by any local government. income tax by the state or by a local government. (See HIGHLIGHTS, 4-CC)

INCOME TAX

INCOME TAX

The new constitution also permits the institutes of higher learning to bite into the sales tax ducational funds. better the same up our observations to To sum up our observations to To sum up our observations to To education, we feel that the authority of the people is wastly undermined, that major amount of money are removed from education and that other major sources of revenue, are ended to the same than the same that the same than the same than

WE FIND other odd things in the proposed constitution. For example, an income tax "gradu-ated as to rate or base" is pro-hibited. Now, just what does this

hibited. Now, just what does this mean?

The prohibition of a "graduate of rate" is rather simple. There can only be a flat rate income tax. But what is the prohibition of a graduated base? Does this not be deducted? This has us quite confused and certain that there will be many court battles before it is fully clarified if the constitution should be adopted.

FOR LEGISLATURE?
A much bigger question is

FOR LEGISLATURE?

A much bigger question is posed by the graduated income the property of the

WE ARE also concerned with the section which provides for 100 per cent funding of govern-mental retirement systems. It is not necessary to fund 100 per cent because 100 per cent of (for the contract of the contract of the stay to retirement. Wany of the munities will not be too badly hurt by this provision, since their systems are in pretty good shaps, but as well as the State of Mich-igan.

rigan.

In this particular section, the proposed constitution imposes a tremendous burden upon the State without providing a means of discharging it. We fear the form of tax that the Legislature will use for relief.

IT'S UNWIELDLY

We would not decide for our-selves. The Legislature would tell us that which we could have. We are fearful of this provision be-cause too much discretion is left in the hands of the Legislature. in the hands of the Legislature.
Generally speaking, we believe
that the proposed constitution is
an unwieldly, unworkable document. It has many other sections,
not discussed, which do not serve
the best interests of the people
of the State.

IN TALKING to many of the Con-Con delegates, we have learned that both parties got quite a constitutional education during the convention. There is substantial agreement on a number of the constitution propenents quickly agree that major sections of the amended at quickly agree that major sections of the amended at quickly as possible if it is adopted.

amended as quickly as possible if it is adopted.

WHY ADOPT, AMEND? The fact points to a serious conclusion—If so much of this there is substantial agreement as to its better points, why adopt, then amend the new document? Why not just amend the present Constitution? It is workable. It is court-dested. It has weather it is only a band on it now for an instrument which is admittedly defective? Why junk it now for a document which does not clearly show the way to a better Michigan?

igan?
For these reasons we urge a "NO" vote on April 1.