



CRIME, TAXES TOP ISSUES



By Suzanne Kitts

November seventh elections this year include voting for candidates for 18 different offices, and for 11 ballot proposals.

The eleven proposals are of important consequence to public policy in our state. The following is a brief explanation of each of the proposals.

A: CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION
At Issue: Whether a constitutional convention should be called to draft a new State Constitution.

Explanation: Article XII, Section 3, of our current State Constitution, which was adopted by the electorate in 1963, requires this issue to be put to a vote of the people on the 1978 general election ballot and every 16 years thereafter. Thus, Proposal A was automatically guaranteed a spot on this November's ballot.

B: RESTRICTED PAROLE

At Issue: Whether felons convicted of violent crimes should be forced to serve minimum sentences set by the courts.

Explanation: Proposal B is one of six issues which won a spot on the November ballot as the result of petition drives. It would amend state law to require felons convicted of crimes of violence in Michigan to serve at least their minimum sentences before they could become eligible for parole. Crimes of violence would include murder, armed robbery, rape, kidnapping, or any other serious felony where a citizen is injured or the potential for injury existed.

Under current state law, persons convicted of violent criminal activity are given both a minimum and maximum sentence. Minimum sentences may be reduced at the discretion of the parole board. It is based on a formula which allows "time off for good behavior."

C: INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS

At Issue: Whether the state should be allowed to invest and deposit public funds in any type of state or federally chartered financial institution.

Explanation: This issue was placed on the ballot as the result of legislative passage of a joint resolution. Proposal C would amend the State Constitution to permit the investment and deposit of public funds, other than retirement or endowment monies, in state or federally chartered banks, savings and loan institutions, or credit unions. The Constitution currently limits such investments and deposits solely to banks.

D: THE LEGAL DRINKING AGE

At Issue: Whether the minimum legal age to consume alcoholic beverages in Michigan should be raised to 21.

Explanation: Proposal D was placed on the November ballot as the result of an initiative petition drive. It would amend the State Constitution to prohibit anyone

below the age of 21 from purchasing, possessing, or consuming alcoholic beverages. It would further make it illegal for anyone to sell or give alcoholic beverages to any person who has not yet turned 21.

Michigan's legal drinking age has been 18 since 1972, the year the Legislature approved the comprehensive Age of Majority Law which granted 18-year-olds the full rights and responsibilities of adults. The legal drinking age is scheduled to go up to 19, however, effective December 3, as a result of legislative passage of a two-bill package earlier this year.

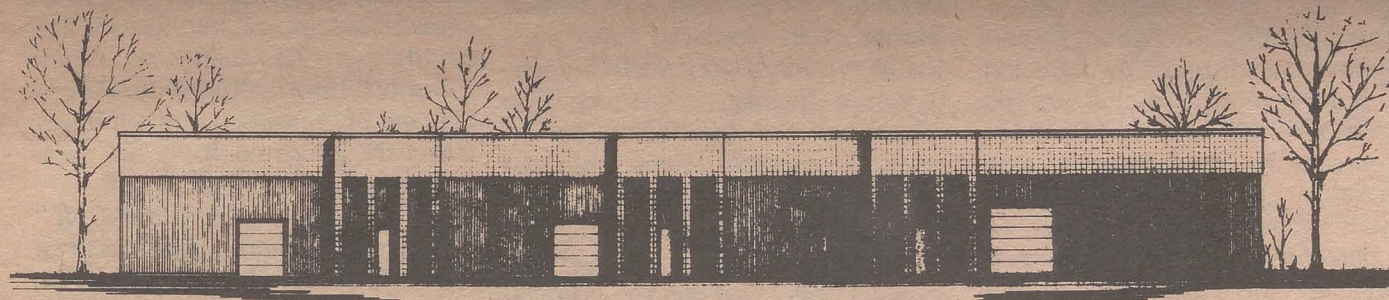
E: THE HEADLEE PROPOSAL

At Issue: Whether state revenues and expenditures should be limited.

Explanation: Proposal E was placed on the ballot via an initiative petition drive sponsored by Taxpayers United for Tax Limitation. It, too, would amend the State Constitution.

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New Addition Saves Dollars



Front view of Technical Lab Building, drawn by R. S. Scott Associates, Engineers

By Connie Roeske

A technical laboratory building is now being built by the Crittenden Construction Co. behind the Besser Tech Center to provide laboratory classrooms for the auto body, construction and industrial training classes. This project is made possible by funding from the Besser Foundation and the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission, a federal agency providing economic development in northern Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

The building will contain 9,600 square feet of floor space for technical classrooms and was originally estimated to cost \$250,000. An additional \$36,395 has been added to that making a total of approximately \$296,000.

The largest area of the building will be used for the auto body shop, which will contain a spray paint booth. Because of the paint

fumes that will exist there, a special air filtering system will be constructed on the roof above the paint booth. The electricity is wired so that the power to the building will be automatically shut off if a malfunction should occur in the air filtering process. This will prevent use of the spray booth without the ventilation that is required by the fire marshal. Separate septic tank, drywell, and water, and small storage bin for paint thinners and flammable paints must be built outside of the building.

The extra requirements are worth the effort since the Auto Body Shop will no longer have to lease space from Alpena Collision for their painting labs, saving a great deal of college funds.

The second major use will be a construction lab. This is the first year for the construction course at ACC and next year the second-year students will be in need of a laboratory classroom.

The additional classroom area is planned to be used for the apprentice carpenters and electricians who will each use the building for one day per week. The remaining days are open for lab needs in other areas, one possibility being small engine repair. In any event the space will be shared by various departments.

The remaining area of the building will consist of three offices, two tool cribs and storage and supply rooms, plus one men's and one women's restroom.

Heat costs will be minimal for this building because there are few windows to let the heat escape, but the maintenance of the building's three heaters will be difficult, since they will be located on the roof like those above the concrete and auto labs in Besser Tech.

The new addition will fit nicely into the overall design of the college, with the style of brick

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H Threatens Dean Position

By Arthur Kniep

Voters at the polls November 7 could directly affect a decision to appoint a new dean of students. Administrative sources agree on the requirements for selecting a replacement but when the position will be filled remains speculative due to Proposal H.

The position of dean has remained open since Dean Souden submitted his resignation, effective October 1, to accept a position at Lansing Community College.

According to Dr. Charles Donnelly Alpena Community College President, should the vacancy be filled, a "community college person" would be sought. "I want the most experienced person in community college systems, especially financial aid," said Donnelly. The position requires a great deal of student contact and counseling.

Because the community college student differs in age, background and financial status, Donnelly reasons that a traditional four year college approach would not suffice.

While Donnelly and other administrative officials appear to agree on requirements for the position, realities of filling the vacancy are still up in the air.

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