



*Public Sector Reports*

## Michigan ROUNDUP

### *Legislative Week in Review*

...The legislature returned Wednesday for its **first session of 1988** with plenty of work on its agenda. Issues for discussion this year include property tax and school finance reform, long-term care and health insurance for senior citizens, product and medical liability, crime, environmental cleanup, and the 1988-89 state budget.

...Governor Blanchard will give his **state of the state address** on Wednesday, January 20. A final date has not yet been set for his **budget message**, but it likely will be presented around the end of January. Blanchard has stated that the 1988-89 fiscal year budget will be only "a shade" larger than the current \$6.48 billion budget, and that no more budget cuts will be necessary during the current fiscal year.

...When the House and Senate approved bills in December to raise the personal exemption on the state income tax, they inadvertently imposed the tax on children for every dollar they earn, including income from summer jobs, babysitting, and snow shoveling. On Thursday, the Senate approved legislation allowing dependents, including minors, to earn up to \$1,500 before being required to file a state income tax return. The House is expected to give final approval to the bill repealing the so-called **kiddie tax** next week. The governor supports the legislation.

### *Political News*

...The **special election** for the state Senate seat vacated by Basil Brown will be held March 15; January 20 is the deadline for candidates to file petitions to run in the February 23rd primary. State Representative Ethel Terrell has declared that she is healthy enough to run; other potential candidates for the heavily Democratic 2nd District seat include state representatives Virgil Smith and Joe Young, Jr., former Highland Park Mayor Bob Blackwell, and Wayne County Commissioner Jackie Currie.

...At the **Republican county conventions** Thursday night, supporters of GOP presidential candidate George Bush won a majority of the delegates, the *Lansing State Journal* reports. With 119 of 124 conventions reporting, the Bush campaign won 57 percent of the state convention delegate spots, followed by Pat Robertson with 23 percent and Jack Kemp with 17 percent. Supporters of Robert Dole won 3 percent of the delegates selected, while Pierre DuPont and Alexander Haig each received less than one percent. Robertson-Kemp forces held numerous rump conventions in protest of rules permitting GOP candidates for offices to vote as county convention delegates. The delegates will attend the Republican state convention on January 29-30, the first state convention to choose delegates to the Republican National Convention in New Orleans. However, debate about delegate selection rules could result in two disputing delegations going to New Orleans, requiring the GOP national convention credentials committee to choose which delegates to seat.

...Alan Stone has been named **president of Alma College**. Stone, currently president of Aurora College in Illinois, will take up his new position at Alma on July 1. State Senator Bill Sederburg had been mentioned as a possible candidate for the Alma position.