



*Public Sector Reports*

## Michigan ROUNDUP

### Legislative Week in Review

....Governor Blanchard's \$6.628 billion 1988-89 budget--just 0.3 percent larger than this year's--will demand better performance from all levels of the state's education system.

- K-12 schools will receive an increase of one percent after several years of much larger boosts, and \$250 million in **adult education funds** will be contingent on lower dropout rates (currently 40-50 percent in some district) and achieving program goals (e.g., measurable increases in adult reading levels) and can no longer be used to offset costs of regular K-12 programs.
- **Community colleges** will get a total of \$2 million more than in 1987-88, but will have to guarantee to employers the "job competency skills" of their students or forfeit one percent of their state aid for the year.
- The \$1.1 billion **higher education** budget contains an increase of just \$37 million, adjusted for the transfer of the **Research Excellence Fund** (\$26.5 million) to the Department of Commerce so that it can be coordinated with the Strategic Fund to promote economic development. The budget also contains \$15.6 million for a new tuition fund for needy students.

....Gary Olson, deputy director of the Senate Fiscal Agency, told the **Senate Appropriations Committee** that the current 1987-88 budget will exceed revenue by \$166 million, and that the state may have to use part of the \$371 million budget stabilization fund or change pension funding to make up the shortfall.

### Political News

....A report based on 1986 census data indicates that Michigan will lose two congressional seats when **redistricting** takes place by spring 1992, and that all Michigan districts are relatively underpopulated. Election Data Services told the *Grand Rapids Press* that four of Michigan's districts--all held by southeast Michigan Democrats--were among the nation's top ten population losers. George Crockett's 13th District was first with a 13.6 percent drop in population; John Conyer's 1st District ranked fourth by dropping 6.3 percent; Sander Levin's 17th was sixth, losing 5.9 percent; and Dennis Hertel's 14th District was tenth, dropping 5.3 percent. The report indicated that four west Michigan districts held by Democrat Howard Wolpe (3rd) and Republicans Fred Upton (4th), Paul Henry (5th), and Guy Vander Jagt (9th) all gained population, but were still short of the "ideal" size if reapportionment were based on 1986 census data. Thus, the configuration of all Michigan districts will likely change following the 1990 census.

....A *Detroit News* **poll of voter preferences** shows that Gary Hart, with 29 percent, is the top choice of Michigan voters to win the Democratic presidential nomination, followed by Jesse Jackson with 22 percent. The poll also reveals that the most voters (52 percent) prefer returning to the presidential primary system, while 34 percent like the present caucus system. The remainder were not sure which system they prefer.

....Michigan Republicans meet in Grand Rapids Friday and Saturday to select their 77 delegates to the party's national presidential nominating convention in August. Insiders said that George Bush would win 35 delegates, Jack Kemp, 30, and Pat Robertson, who had expected to do much better, only 12.

....State Rep. Rick Sitz (D-Taylor) announced he will not seek reelection in 1988. Sitz, 38, is chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.