



Michigan ROUNDUP

Legislative Week in Review

■ A special, one-day session of the legislature was held Wednesday to act on two **environmental bond proposals** so that they may be placed on the November ballot. The proposals, which have the support of the governor, received overwhelming approval in both the House and Senate. One will ask voters to approve \$660 million in general obligation bonds to finance programs for solid waste cleanup, water quality improvement, and toxic waste cleanup. If approved, the money will be spent as follows: \$425 million to clean up toxic waste and other environmental contamination sites; \$25 million to fund state participation in the Regional Great Lakes Protection Fund; \$150 million to finance solid waste projects; and \$60 million to capitalize a state water pollution control revolving fund that would provide loans for sewage treatment and other water quality projects.

The second proposal seeks voter approval for \$140 million in bonds to finance state and local public recreation projects. These could include infrastructure improvements to existing facilities; development of waterfront recreation facilities that would encourage further private investments in the area; and construction of such community recreation facilities as playgrounds, community and senior centers, sports fields and courts, and fishing sites.

■ Just a month ago House and Senate conferees tentatively agreed that a **school finance reform proposal** would be placed on a special election ballot in March 1989. The likelihood is growing dim. Dan DeGrow (R-Port Huron), the senator who has spearheaded efforts for reform, said this week that there may not be enough support among Republican lawmakers to get the question on the March ballot. Some observers are expressing concern that pure tax cut proposals, such as one to cut property taxes now being pushed by Senator Norman Shinkle (R-Lambertville), could take the place of the current school finance reform proposal.

■ The legislature will not meet again until September 20.

Political News

■ Almost unnoticed is **Proposal B** on the November election ballot, which would add to the state constitution a list of crime victims' rights now protected by statute. It is the product of a nonpartisan legislative effort by Representatives William Van Regenmorter (R-Jenison) and Perry Bullard (D-Ann Arbor). Although the proposal is causing little controversy, the statute on which it is based has been criticized. For example, the law allows the victim of a crime to make a statement to the judge who will pass sentence on the perpetrator of the crime; some say that if judges are influenced by such statements, the result could be heavier sentences than in similar cases where the victim does not make a statement.

■ Republicans will nominate candidates for several **statewide offices** at their convention this weekend in Detroit. Two seats each will be up for election on the boards of the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Wayne State University. Announced as seeking party approval for the Michigan board are Deane Baker (incumbent), Clifford Taylor, and Alan May; for the MSU slots, the hopefuls are Thomas Reed (incumbent), Dee Cook, and Ed Liebler; and for one of the WSU seats, incumbent Richard VanDusen. (The party seeks one additional nominee for WSU.) For the state board of education, former member Barbara Dumouchelle and Marilyn Lundy are expected to receive the nod. Incumbent Justice James Brickley, who filed for this election as an independent candidate, is expected to receive the convention's endorsement for the nonpartisan Michigan Supreme Court; the party will nominate Robert C. Johnston to run for the other court position up for election.

Democrats already have nominated Nellie Varner (incumbent) and Thomas Lewand for the University of Michigan board; Barbara Rom and Robert Weiss for Michigan State; and Murray Jackson (incumbent) and Victoria Kremm for Wayne State. For the state board of education, Democratic hopefuls are Larry Crawford and Steve Economy. For the Michigan Supreme Court, the Democrats nominated Marvin Stempien and endorsed incumbent Justice Charles Levin, an independent candidate.