

STATE-WIDE SPRING ELECTION BALLOT ISSUES

The April 6th election will see decisions made on the election of the following state officials - -

Superintendent of Public Instruction	1
Members of the Board of Regents (University of Michigan)	2
Members of the State Board of Education	1
Members of the Board of Agriculture (Michigan State University)	2
Members of the Board of Governors (Wayne State University)	6
Justices of the Supreme Court	2

In addition, circuit judges will be chosen, local ballot issues decided, and township elections held.

Constitutional Amendments

The election will also see three proposals for constitutional amendment before the people. There follows a brief commentary on each of these proposals, in the order in which the legislature placed them before the people.

I. Continuity of State & Local Government in Emergencies (Amend section 5 of Article XVI)

This amendment would give the legislature power to provide for continuity of state and local governmental operations in periods of emergency only caused by enemy attack. The legislature would be empowered

- (1) to provide for "prompt and temporary" succession to the duties of appointive or elective offices;
- (2) to adopt "such other legislation as may be necessary and proper for insuring the continuity of governmental operations."

The provision also states that any elective vacancies occupied under the terms of the amendment shall be filled by election "as soon as possible."

There would appear to be no reasonable objection to granting such powers to the legislature.

II. State Board of Agriculture to be Board of Trustees
(Amend sections 7 and 8 of Article XI)

This amendment would change the name of the state board of agriculture to “the board of trustees of Michigan state university of agriculture and applied science” (sec. 9). Section 8 is changed only insofar as substituting the new name of the Board (and the university) for the old.

Again, little objection presents itself to the proposal.

III. Board of Governors of Wayne State University
(Add New section 16 to Article XI)

This amendment would establish essentially the same constitutional type of control for Wayne State University as now exists for the University of Michigan (board of regents) and Michigan State University (board of agriculture or board of trustees, as proposed; see II, above).

If the constitutional amendment is accepted, the statutory board to be elected on April 6th in accordance with Act No. 183 of 1956 will become the constitutional board. It will consist of six members, holding office for staggered six year terms, with vacancies filled by appointment of the governor.

The one importance difference in the present proposal over existing provisions for the other two state universities is that “the legislature shall be given an annual detailed accounting of all income from whatever source derived and all expenditures by Wayne state university.”

This requirement may help the legislature to get the type of fiscal reporting it complains it is now unable to get from the boards of Michigan and Michigan State.