

Constitutional Convention Questions To Be Voted On At Primary Next Tuesday

Summary Listed For Voters Information

The Constitution of Pennsylvania is the basic law of the Commonwealth. It affects the daily lives of all residents—through their government, their courts, their taxes, and other matters.

The recently concluded Constitutional Convention, called by referendum, was assigned by the people to consider changes to the sections of the State Constitution pertaining to Legislative Apportionment, Taxation and State Finance, Local Government and the Judiciary.

The Convention carried out its assignment, and the proposals it adopted now go to the people.

To become part of our basic law, the Convention's proposals must be approved by the voters of Pennsylvania at the Primary Election of April 23, 1968. These proposals will appear on the ballot as five questions.

The actual ballot questions—and summaries of the proposals covered by each—are listed here for your information.

LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT

Ballot Question I.

Shall Proposals 1 and 2 on LEGISLATIVE APPORTIONMENT adopted by the Constitutional Convention, providing for 50 Senators and 203 Representatives and for a Commission to reapportion the Legislature after each decennial census, be approved?

The proposals in this question remove from the present Constitution the provisions on reapportionment declared unconstitutional by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and create a Legislative Reapportionment Commission with new methods to carry out reapportionment every ten years.

The proposals eliminate present fluctuation in House membership, establishing the number of seats at 203, and holding Senate membership at 50. No county, city, incorporated town, borough, township or ward shall be divided in forming Senatorial and Representative districts unless absolutely necessary.

The Legislative Reapportionment Commission will consist of the Majority and Minority leaders of the Senate and the House of Representatives, and a fifth member, selected by them. The fifth member shall serve as chairman of the commission, and may not hold any paid public office.

If the Commission fails to complete reapportionment within 90 days, the State Supreme Court shall assume the responsibility.

Any citizen aggrieved by the reapportionment plan has a right of appeal to the court in an effort to show the reapportionment is illegal.

STATE FINANCE

Ballot Question II.

Shall Proposals 3 and 4 on STATE FINANCE adopted by the Constitutional Convention, providing for a limit on borrowing based on tax revenues, budgeting, financial planning, auditing and related matters, be approved?

The Proposals in this question establish a realistic debt limit, require a balanced budget and a five year financial plan, elim-

inate the Sinking Fund, and provide for audit controls.

The debt limit is set at one and three quarter times the average yearly tax collections over a five-year period, which eliminates the necessity of creating authorities to finance capital expenditures. Borrowing approved by voters in a referendum and self-liquidating authority debt are excluded from the debt limit.

The General Assembly must limit appropriations in a fiscal year to the revenue available (balanced budget), must adopt a capital budget for the next fiscal year, and must appropriate any surplus at the end of one fiscal year during the following fiscal year.

The Governor must prepare annually a financial plan for at least a five-year period to disclose proposed programs, costs and revenues.

The financial affairs of the Commonwealth are subject to audits made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards.

TAXATION

Ballot Question III.

Shall Proposal 5 on TAXATION adopted by the Constitutional Convention, permitting

certain tax exemptions, providing for reimbursements of local taxing authorities under certain conditions and related matters, be approved?

The Proposal in this question clarifies provisions for exemptions of certain classes of property from State and local taxation, keyed to use rather than ownership.

Public utilities are made subject to local real estate taxes on operating property previously exempted, but a portion of the gross receipts tax imposed upon public utilities will be allocated to local government on a fair and equitable basis in place of the local taxation. This portion shall be equal to all local real estate taxes which otherwise could have been imposed upon public utility property in a preceding year.

If a full reimbursement from the gross receipts tax or the tax itself are not maintained by the State, then the public utility properties will become fully taxable by local authorities.

Real estate tax exemptions are based on use rather than ownership, and only that property or portion of property actually used for the stated purpose of the institution involved would be tax exempt.

The General Assembly may permit state or local taxing authorities to grant special tax exemptions for needy citizens. The Legislature may mandate such exemptions from real estate tax only if the State reimburses local government for losses suffered as a result of any additional exemptions.

The General Assembly may grant exemptions or special

taxing provisions for a limited period to encourage rehabilitation of deteriorating areas and promotion of industrial and housing developments.

Retained are the requirements that all taxes shall be uniform upon the same classes of subjects and shall be levied and collected under general laws, and the provision that gasoline taxes shall be earmarked for the motor license fund.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ballot Question IV.

Shall Proposal 6 on LOCAL GOVERNMENT, adopted by the Constitutional Convention, providing for home rule for all units of local government, optional forms of government, uniform procedures for merger, consolidation and boundary change, intergovernmental cooperation and area government, local finance and debt limits, apportionment and related matters, be approved?

The Proposal in this question gives the people the right to adopt home rule charters and optional forms of local government, and provides for the setting of standards for annexation, consolidation and boundary change.

Home rule charters may be

adopted under General Assembly guidelines or by a majority vote of the local electorate. Upon adoption of a home rule charter, a local government will be entitled to any powers not denied by the constitution, the General Assembly, or its own charter (residual powers). The General Assembly must provide optional forms of local government, but voter approval is required for any changes.

The Proposal also:

Allows cooperation among all governmental units, State, local and federal, including the transfer of functions to other governmental entities; and provides for area governments.

Permits annexation upon approval by a majority of the electors in each of the local units involved, without approval of their governing bodies.

Establishes debt limits for all local governments based on a percentage of the municipality's revenue.

Requires local governments which elect local officials by ward or district to reapportion themselves after each federal decennial census into districts that are as nearly equal in population as practicable.

Retains the City of Philadelphia (Continued on Page 27)

TRUDAN

The New Wonder Grass

- Fastest thing on roots, has actually grown a measured 4 feet in 22 days.
- Leafier plants

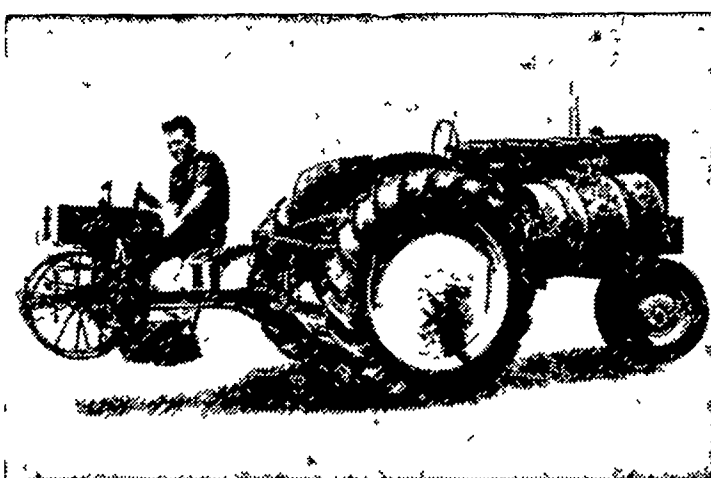
Trudan is a totally new achievement equally valuable for hay grazing, green chop, haylage or silage.

REIST SEED COMPANY

SINCE 1925

MOUNT JOY, PA.

Ph. 653-4121



SEE THE GENUINE MECHANICAL TRANSPLANTER

HORSE DRAWN OR TRACTOR MODELS

With All The Features The Farmer Wants and Buys

SOLD AND SERVICED BY

LESTER A. SINGER

RONKS, PA.

Phone Strasburg 687-6712

START THE SEASON OFF PROFITABLY BY USING

FARMERS' FERTILIZER

Pulverized and Granular

Call Us Now

FARMERS' FERTILIZERS WORKS FOR THE FARMER

365 WEST BAINBRIDGE STREET

ELIZABETHTOWN

Ph. AC 717 367-1211

Quality Fertilizers Since 1904

STOP CLIMBING THE WALL

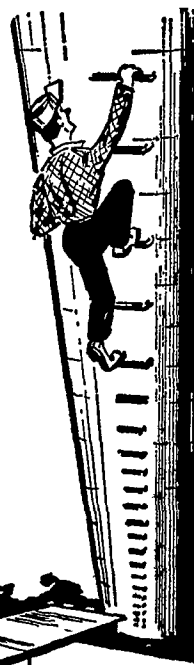
If you're climbing the silo wall, consider these advantages of the Jamesway Volumatic distributor-unloader:

- No weights to adjust.
- No drive drum to manhandle.
- No need to ride the shroud to keep the auger cutting.

Two machines in one—distributor and unloader.

Lowest cost combination on the market.

Come in today for complete details.



Come in today for complete details on the benefits of Power Circle Drive and true Three-Point Suspension.



M. E. SNAVELY

445 South Cedar St., Lititz, Pa. 17543
Ph. 626-8144