

August 5, 1992

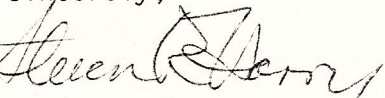
3125 Tecumseh River Road  
Lansing, MI 48906

Dear Mr. Ferency,

Attached is my proposed Constitutional amendment. It is not complete and may not be not in the proper form or style, but I hope it gives you enough information to understand the system I envision. The goal is to establish a real democracy in Michigan - a system in which the will of the majority of citizens is quickly discovered and made into law.

Please send me a copy of your proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Harry". The signature is written in dark ink and is somewhat stylized, with the first and last names being clearly legible.

Steve Harry

Home phone: 323-3897

Office: 335-4451

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment

We, the people of the State of Michigan, in order to make state government more democratic, do ordain and establish this new constitution.

All provisions of the old constitution not superseded by the following remain in effect.

**Elector.** Every citizen of the United States who has attained the age of 18 years and has resided in this state six months may register as an elector. An elector may vote on proposals and bills and may select a representative from the House of Representatives to vote in his behalf on proposals and bills. An elector may also select a candidate for the House of Representatives who shall become his representative if the candidate replaces a member of the house. An elector may also vote for candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

**Voting.** A voting system with these features shall be devised:

- available each day for as many hours as technically feasible and financially possible, but not less than 10 hours
- convenient and accessible to all electors
- able to prevent others from voting in the elector's name without his consent.
- able to maintain the confidentiality of the elector's votes

Vote counts shall be made available to the public immediately.

*[A voting "network" is already in place: telephones. Technology already exists that would allow voting through touch-tone phones. The voter would need to get the identification number of a proposal, bill, representative, or candidate, then he could dial into the voting system where he would be led by a recorded voice through the steps necessary to register his vote. Voting could also be done with more graphic guidance at a computer terminal. Special provisions would have to be made for the handicapped. PIN numbers, voice prints, etc. would be used to control access.]*

**Proposal.** All new laws and constitutional amendments shall originate as proposals. A proposal may be made by any elector. A proposal registration fee of \$100 a year, adjusted yearly for inflation, shall be charged. A proposal shall become a bill when 20% of the electors vote for it, directly or through representatives. Until it becomes a bill, a proposal may be withdrawn by the person who registered it. It may not be amended.

*[The proposal process might at first seem to make it impossible for the House to act quickly when necessary; but since a representative is also an elector, he may make a proposal, and with his vote and that of a few of his fellow representatives, it could quickly have the indirect support of 20% of the electors.]*

**Bill.** A bill that amends the Constitution shall become law on the thirtieth day from the date it became a bill if a majority of electors vote in favor. A bill that does not amend the Constitution shall become law as soon as a majority of electors vote in favor. If any bill is not passed within 30 days, it shall be rejected. A bill may not be amended. Electors may vote directly or through representatives.

*[Bills for amendments must remain under consideration for a full 30 days; all other bills become law as soon as a majority approves. A rejected bill may immediately be registered again as a proposal.]*

*The governor will have no veto power.]*

**Representative.** An elector may choose a representative from a 100-member House of Representatives to vote in his behalf on proposals and bills. When a representative votes, the number of votes tallied is equal to the number of electors who have named him as their representative and have not voted directly.

*[For this House of Representatives, there are no legislative "sessions", no required debate, no quorums. Individual representatives are not required by this Constitution to associate in any way with other representatives. They may do their voting from any location technically possible with their voting system. I see most debate occurring in private political publications and through other private and public communication systems, and I see most legislation being written by citizens and citizen groups.]*

*When an elector thinks that his representative is not going to vote the way he wants him to on a particular proposal or bill, he will vote directly; but as long as he agrees with the votes of his representative, the elector can let him vote in his behalf.]*

Any elector may register as a candidate for the House of Representatives. A registration fee of \$100 per year, adjusted yearly for inflation, shall be charged. The candidate with the most support shall replace the member of the House of Representatives with the least support 30 days after the candidate's support exceeds the member's. A candidate's support shall be the number of electors who have named him as a candidate. The member's support shall be the number of electors who have named him as their representative and have not also named a candidate. When a candidate becomes a member of the House, he shall represent the electors who named him as a candidate.

If a representative dies or leaves office for any reason, the candidate with the most support immediately becomes a representative so that total House membership is maintained at 100.

When a candidate becomes a representative, he shall represent all electors who named him as a candidate. Until they choose a new one, the electors who were represented by a member who leaves the House for any reason shall have no representative.

**Election of the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.** Any two citizens over 30 years of age may register together as candidates for governor and lieutenant Governor. A registration fee of \$1000, adjusted yearly for inflation, shall

be charged. The registration is for a single election; candidates must register again after the start of a new term of office.

An elector may only vote directly for a team of Governor/Lieutenant Governor candidates; he may not vote through a representative. The elector may change his vote at any time.

On the first day of each month, starting with July of the last year of the 4 calendar year gubernatorial term of office, the number of candidate teams shall be reduced as follows by eliminating those with the least support:

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Remaining<br/>Teams</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| July         | 20                         |
| August       | 10                         |
| September    | 5                          |
| October      | 3                          |
| November     | 2                          |

On December 1, the team with the most votes shall become the governor and lieutenant governor elect, and they shall take office on January 1.

If a candidate team gets the support of more than 50% of the electors at any time before December 1 of the last year of the gubernatorial term of office, they shall immediately become the governor and lieutenant governor elect and shall take office in 30 days.

**Gubernatorial Succession.** Should the governor die or leave office for any reason, the lieutenant governor shall become governor and there shall be no lieutenant governor. Should the governor die or leave office when there is no lieutenant governor to replace him, the candidate team with the next highest support in the last election shall become governor and lieutenant governor for the remainder of the current term of office.