

# OCC board, union oppose all 3 state tax plans

After learning its accreditation will be renewed for seven years, Oakland Community College officials warned the two-year college's programs would be endangered if the so-called Tisch amendment is passed Nov. 4.

The seven-member board of trustees Thursday unanimously recommended no votes on all three state tax proposals — A (Smith-Bullard), C (Coalition) and D (Tisch).

OCC's four campuses were visited for three days last week by a 12-member accrediting team from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. It was headed by Philip Helland, chancellor of the Minnesota college system.

Previously, OCC had been accredited for five-year terms. College officials were elated at the new seven-year accreditation.

"OUR REPORT is most favorable. The team is recommending an unqualified seven-year accreditation without an interim 'focus' visit," Helland told OCC officials before departing late Wednesday.

An OCC spokesman quoted Helland's team as saying the local college is out-

standing, "with superb management, sound fiscal base and highly qualified faculty and staff concerned with the success of individual students." A written report will be issued later.

President Robert F. Roelofs said OCC is pleased, and that "we hope to be able to maintain the high quality of services to our community that North Central recognized."

"HOWEVER," he added, "many of the outstanding strengths of the community college — such as special, personalized, student services, open door admissions, womencenters, job placement, libraries, arts and cultural programs, and physical education and athletics would be jeopardized because of the Tisch amendment."

Proposal D aims to roll back property assessments to 1978 levels, then cut them in half, requiring the state to make up lost revenues to local governments without increasing other taxes. Any local or state tax increases would require approval of 60 percent of the voters.

"Doubling our tuition would not generate the amount of money Tisch would take away from us," said Roelofs. "A

balanced budget is mandated by Michigan law.

"Although the college has always been concerned with cost-effectiveness, in order for the college to balance its budget, it would be necessary to eliminate many of our present programs, services and staff as well as raise tuition if Proposal D were passed. Students and the community would be the losers."

AFTER TRUSTEES passed a resolution opposing all three state tax proposals, board Chairman Earl Anderson said some persons erroneously believe they must vote in favor of at least one.

"It's important that the community members know that they can vote against all three proposals. Although Tisch would be the most disastrous, passage of any of the three proposals would have a serious impact on revenues received by the college," Anderson said.

Robert Pletz, president of the OCC Faculty Association, told board members the unit had gone on record opposing all three proposals.

Trustees called the action significant because OCFPA is an affiliate of the Michigan Education Assn., which is the prime supporter of Proposal A (Smith-Bullard). Proposal A would remove property taxes as a source of K-12 school funding and replace it with an increase in the state income tax.

Roelofs estimated Proposal D would reduce property tax income by \$3 million-plus. He also doubted the state would have enough general fund revenue to maintain its current level of state aid (about \$9 million) because of Tisch's requirement that local property tax losses be reimbursed.

## Chores don't disappear with frost

Lawn and garden chores don't end with the first frost. Extension specialists at Michigan State University suggest a number of tasks are timely in October.

- Keep mowing the lawn as long as it keeps growing. The final cut on bluegrass or fescue lawns should leave blades about 1-1½ inches long.
- Rake leaves off the lawn at least once a week. If they get wet and mat on the grass, they can smother it.
- Plan to apply nitrogen to the lawn after the grass stops growing but before the first snow. One to 1½ pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet applied in early to mid-November provides for good root development and a gradual spring green-up. Hold off fertilizing next spring until the end of May.
- To control broadleaved weeds, spray lawns with a herbicide on a warm, calm day in October. Seeds are germinating now and young plants are relatively easy to kill. Spot treating next spring can take care of any you miss now.
- After the first killing frost, prepare roses for winter. Pile 8-10 inches of soil around the canes. Then tie the canes so the wind can't whip them, and cover them with straw or hay. Use additional soil, plastic rose cones or chicken wire to hold the mulch in place.
- Clean up fallen rose leaves and prune away dead, damaged or diseased canes to minimize next year's rose insect and disease problems.

## tax proposals in a nutshell

Voters Nov. 4 will decide on three state ballot proposals affecting taxes — A, C and D. Voters could approve any or all. If more than one tax plan passes, the non-conflicting parts of those which pass will be put into effect. The State Supreme Court would resolve any conflicts.

**PROPOSAL A ("Smith-Bullard")** calls for cutting property taxes (residential and agricultural) for schools. Requires state to make up the loss to school districts. State income tax would have to be raised to 6 percent or more from current 4.6 percent to fund school systems. To be phased in over five-year period under a complicated formula.

**EFFECTS:** A shift from property to income tax; more uniform financing of school districts. Local districts could vote "enrichment" property taxes.

**PROPOSAL C ("Coalition Plan")** advanced by Gov. Miliken and bipartisan leaders in the legislature: Would cut property taxes by exempting first \$7,100 of residential property assessment. Loss to be made up by increasing state sales tax to 5.5 percent from 4 percent.

**EFFECT:** Mostly a shift from property to sales tax; probably a small tax savings as time goes on because of phase-out of sales tax on utility bills.

**PROPOSAL D ("Tisch")** would roll back property assessments to 1978 level and then cut in half, resulting in 60 percent cut in property taxes. Would then require state to pay local governments for some of the lost revenue. Any new state taxes would require approval of 60 percent of voters.

**EFFECT:** A tax cut and cutbacks (uncertain as to severity) in state services and facilities. Would affect colleges, local school districts, state police, state hospitals, state parks, revenue sharing with local governments.

## Special Olympics seeks '81 volunteers

Oakland County's Special Olympics needs volunteers to help with some 2,100 olympians involved in their present program.

The non-profit organization is dependent on volunteers to cope with the growth of the program in recent years.

Volunteers are needed for a Nov. 15 poly hockey invitational tournament and a bowling competition set for Dec. 6. The locale of the events is not set at this time.

Other tournaments and games are planned later in the season.

More than 2,100 mentally impaired children and adults from Oakland

County have been given the opportunity to participate in sports training and athletic competition through the Oakland County Special Olympics program.

Events available include clinics for soccer, poly hockey, cross country skiing and gymnastics; basketball, soccer, wrestling and poly hockey tournaments; track events including wheelchair events; table tennis; badminton; and tennis.

Each year, 293 special olympians and their chaperones spend four days at Central Michigan University with 3,000 other participants from through-

out Michigan for the state track and field competition.

Every four years, the International Summer and Winter Games brings together athletes from all 50 states and 36 nations.

All of these events are made possible through the contribution of time and money of volunteers and business persons in Oakland County.

Volunteers are needed for office help, secretarial assistance and fund-raising activities as well as actual sports activities.

Anyone wishing to help can contact Stella Welks, 700 E. Maple, Suite 304, Birmingham 48011.



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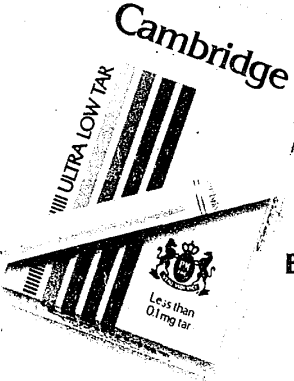
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