

# State reliability worries schools

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Just to keep the schools operating, districts would be forced to borrow money at high interest rates, he explained.

Saliz would prefer that the state borrowed money at low interest rates and distribute it promptly to school districts.

But Proposal A is only one of Clarenceville's fiscal concerns. Even if

the proposal fails, Clarenceville will need to make up approximately \$44,000 at the local level to balance the projected 1981-82 budget of more than \$5 million.

The small district has one high school, one junior high, and two elementary schools with 2,384 students and 111 teachers.

THE TINY district already has a complicated financial situation be-

cause it draws students and funds from parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington.

"There are so many unknowns," said Saliz that it is difficult to predict the effect of Proposal A on Clarenceville.

The school board voted recently to oppose the amendment which state voters will consider in a special election on May 19.

The board plans to outline the projected 1981-82 budget to every homeowner and business in its monthly newsletter so that taxpayers will be aware of the district's fiscal dilemma.

"We've always given an accurate, honest picture of our situation," said Saliz as he explained why he expected

a positive response from voters in the area.

"They are very supportive of the school system," he explained.

There are "mixed reactions" to Proposal A, among the parents Saliz talked to. However, he predicts Clarenceville voters will defeat Proposal A.

Although the board has made no decisions about cuts, they have visited the school buildings and are taking "a hard look at where we can cut," Saliz said.

"We don't like to use the obscure tactic of threatening possible cuts," he explained.

"If we make any cuts, it will be in areas that least affect students and their basic education," Saliz added.

## how tax cut plan looks on ballot

Here is the official ballot text of Proposal A as it will appear in the May 19 state-wide special election.

**PROPOSAL A**

Proposal to reduce property taxes, reduce city income taxes, limit growth of property tax revenues, return additional sales tax to local governments and schools and give state lottery profits to school aid fund.

- The proposed amendment would:
1. Reduce by 50 percent homestead property taxes used for operating schools and local governments. Reduction limited to \$1,400 in 1981 and changed yearly as home values change.
  2. Reduce by 50 percent local individual income taxes on first \$40,000 of taxable income.
  3. Make state return to local governments all funds lost by above reductions.
  4. Limit yearly property tax revenue growth to 6 percent by property type unless raised by local voters.
  5. Raise sales tax from 4 percent to 5.5 percent. Raise must be returned to local governments and schools.
  6. Let farms and forests be assessed at use value.
  7. Give state lottery profits to school aid fund.
- Should this amendment be adopted?

## Ward Presbyterian moves out on own

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worshippers in three Sunday services and some 2,000 in Sunday School each week.

"Last year our income was more than \$1,600,000," said Dr. Hess, "and we probably will go over \$2 million in next year's budget." The church has five ordained ministers and an executive staff of 12.

Last month Ward leaders helped with the organization of a new denomination, Evangelical Presbyterian, in St.

Louis. Dr. Hess said the new group so far has 25-30 congregations with a total membership of about 20,000.

The other metropolitan area churches that withdrew from the United Presbyterian Church with Ward are making similar settlements, Dr. Hess said.

"Each church has its own agreement," he added. "Dr. William Whitledge of St. Paul United Presbyterian in Livonia was chairman of the administrative commission that has worked with First United Presbyterian Church of Trenton."

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