

They want to know what you think

Legislators seek voter input on tax relief

By MARY GNIEWEK

If you're looking to state legislators to get a handle on all the property tax relief proposals floating around Lansing, you might be surprised to find them looking at you — the taxpayers — for guidance.

State Sen. Doug Ross, D-Oak Park, circulated 80,000 tax relief surveys this week to constituents in his 15th District which includes Farmington and Farmington Hills.

He's asking two questions: if the budget is balanced by increasing some other tax (income or sales) which would you prefer? Also, if the budget is balanced by reducing services, which services would you like to see cut?

"I'm hoping that kind of information will enable me to participate in the decision that will take place quickly here in Lansing on how to balance the budget if we cut taxes," Ross said from his Lansing office Tuesday.

"We ought to be looking at a 50 percent reduction in property taxes of the typical homeowner."

"It will cost \$1 billion to \$1.3 billion to provide. Then we have to balance state and local budgets," he said.

Ross wants to know what his constituents think before taking a firm stand. Like State Representative Sandy Brotherton, R-Farmington, he's against the Tisch proposal, which would roll back to 1978 assessment data and cut property taxes in half, a \$2 billion cut.

"TISCH HAS CHOSEN not to figure out how to balance the budget after he provides tax relief. I believe fiscal responsibility requires that as a state we decide how we're going to do that," Ross said.

A four-page property tax report published by Brotherton for taxpayers to digest includes a synopsis of Tisch and three other major tax relief proposals: Siljander, Smith-Bullard, and the Republican Task Force.

"I'm lukewarm about all of them," said Brotherton, who sponsored a forum in Farmington Hills recently to hear taxpayer views.

He called the Siljander proposal which would cut property tax by eliminating the first 26 mills of school tax for residential property owners, the only reasonable proposal at this time.

"Yet Siljander's proposal doesn't provide as much control as I'd like to see," he said.

"It needs a tighter rein on assessments. I'd like to see a combination of Tisch and Siljander's."

Brotherton believes the Republican Task Force's 1.5 percent income tax hike isn't enough to take the burden off property owners.

"The people are entitled to more of a savings," he said.

HE OPPOSES the governor's proposal and the Smith-Bullard proposal because they provide a tax shift, not a tax break.

"The governor and leadership cannot except the idea that the state should

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— State Rep.
Sandy Brotherton

get along with any less money than now," Brotherton said.

"The Smith-Bullard proposal reduces the property tax and also requires the schools get no less dollars per student than what they're presently getting."

"Basically, it requires the state to

make up millage."

He thinks the Tisch proposal will be on the ballot and that it might pass.

"A lot depends on the next few months as we near the general election and people more thoroughly analyze Tisch and other proposals."

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— State Senator Doug Ross



DOUG ROSS

EXAMPLES OF THE IMPACT ON TAX LIABILITIES FROM TAX PROPOSALS (IN DOLLARS)

I. Household Income = \$15,000 (Assumes 53.37 average mill levy)

State Equalized Value = \$15,000

	Present	Siljander	Republican Task Force	Tisch	Smith/Bullard	Smith/Bullard Extra Voted
Property Tax	801	411	411	212	320	426
Circuit Breaker	166	0	0	0	0	0
Net Property Tax	635	411	411	212	320	426
Sales Tax	300	375	413	300	300	300
Income Tax	529	529	529	529	759	759
TOTAL NET TAXES	1464	1315	1353	1041	1379	1485

II. Household Income = \$20,000

State Equalized Value = \$30,000

Property Tax	1601	821	821	667	641	851
Circuit Breaker	541	73	73	0	0	91
Net Property Tax	1060	748	748	667	641	760
Sales Tax	400	500	550	400	400	400
Income Tax	713	713	713	713	1023	1023
TOTAL NET TAXES	2173	1961	2011	1780	2064	2183

III. Household Income = \$25,000

State Equalized Value = \$25,000

Property Tax	1334	684	684	354	534	709
Circuit Breaker	275	0	0	0	0	0
Net Property Tax	1059	684	684	354	534	709
Sales Tax	500	625	688	500	500	500
Income Tax	943	943	943	943	1353	1353
TOTAL NET TAXES	2502	2252	2315	1797	2387	2562

IV. Household Income = \$35,000

State Equalized Value = \$30,000

Property Tax	1868	821	821	424	641	851
Circuit Breaker	385	0	0	0	0	0
Net Property Tax	1483	821	821	424	641	851
Sales Tax	700	875	963	700	700	700
Income Tax	1449	1449	1449	1449	2079	2079
TOTAL NET TAXES	3632	3145	3233	2573	3420	3630



SANDY BROTHERTON

INSIDE ANGLES

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

FARMINGTON PUBLIC Schools' special education department will hire employers who have worked with handicapped students or who are scheduled to work with them in the future. The employers will attend a banquet on May 21 in Vladimir's. Thomas McLaughlin, director of the state's department of commerce will be the guest speaker that night.

IF YOU WERE considering attending the City of Hope Helen Rosenberg Cancer Fighters general meeting for May, you ought to know that the meeting which usually is scheduled for the fourth week of the month has been moved up one week due to Memorial Day. The general meeting for this month will be at 8 p.m., May 19 at Armenian Church, 26210 West 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. There will be a musical program by Marcy Rose Schulman. Guests are welcome. There will be refreshments.

THE FARMINGTON Education Association joins with several other teacher groups and area churches in donating funds to support Indo-Chinese refugee families. The FEA's \$100 will help provide living quarters, medical service, furniture, food and clothing for the refugees. The effort is sponsored by a group of former refugees who have banded together to form the Lin Son Pagoda in Detroit. LA salutes the pagoda and the teachers: ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥.

THOSE FOLKS at the Farmington Association for Educational Enrichment will meet from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. May 22 in the North Farmington High School auditorium. Three high school students will speak on their own education experiences. Jane Kernicky of North Farmington High will speak about her experience of graduation from NFHS with one year of college credit under her belt. She's headed for Kalamazoo College. Andrew Mathieson of Harrison High will speak about his time in the first student mentor program in Farmington. He's working with Michael Dornan, administrative assistant to the city manager of Farmington Hills. Mathieson plans to attend the University of Michigan. David Short of Farmington High helped get the computer program for students off the ground in Farmington. He's headed for Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The FAEED will also select officers and evaluate its first year of operation during the meeting. For further information call Mrs. Marge Peterman at 553-3295.

IF YOU graduated from Mercy College of Detroit between 1942 and 1968, your presence is requested from noon until after 5 p.m. May 31 on campus at 8200 West Outer Drive, Detroit. That's when the college hosts its spring homecoming. For further information or for reservations call the college at 592-6114 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE MUSCULAR Dystrophy Association will conduct a door-to-door campaign on June 3 in Oakland County. Proceeds from the drive will go toward providing funds for research grants, diagnosis, lab tests, physical and occupational therapy, braces, wheelchairs and genetic counseling. Money will also go toward the annual summer camp for muscular dystrophy patients who are at least 8 years old. If you want to help raise money in Oakland County, call the campaign headquarters at 399-8320.

WELL, HERE'S ANOTHER running event jogging past you. The annual Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan Run is scheduled for June 1 in downtown Detroit. The 12-mile endurance run, six mile run and three mile fun walk of run will be used to raise money for the Michigan Special Olympics via pledges to the participants. Teams may enter in three divisions — AAU, corporate and family. There are five age divisions for men and women. Family teams will win their awards based on the number of members who finish an event regardless of their times. The runs start and finish in the shadow of the Ren Cen and the Blue Cross building. The 12 mile run will be endured around Belle Isle. All finishers will receive certificates and ribbons. Top winners will get other prizes.

The three-mile event will begin at 8:30 a.m., the six mile run at 9 a.m. and the 12 mile run at 9:30 a.m. The deadline for registration is May 23. For further information as well as entry and Special Olympics pledge forms send a self-addressed, long envelope to Community Relations, 1908 Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan, 600 Lafayette East, Detroit, 48226. IA, who much prefers walking to running through Belle Isle, salutes the brave souls with running-calloused heels who participate in such events: puff, puff, puff, puff. (Can I make it?) wheeze, wheeze, wheeze (Why did I do this?) puff, wheeze, puff, puff (Almost finished) puff, puff, faint.



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