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states which raised the legal drinking age are also considering lowering it.

PRO: A 19 year limit would effectively remove legal drinking from high school students. There is no relationship between legal drinking age and whether teens drink. Statistics on alcohol/accidents are inconclusive.

CON: There have been fewer alcohol related accidents since 1978 among 18-20 year olds. The 21 year limit should be given more time to prove itself. Voters should not have to vote on a question adopted just two years ago.

C
Yes
No

PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF; TO REIMBURSE LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS WITH ADDITIONAL SALES TAX; TO MANDATE NET STATE LOTTERY REVENUE FOR SCHOOLS; AND TO MANDATE STATE "RAINY DAY" FUND.

The proposed amendment would:

1. Eliminate property taxes on first \$7,100.00 of home assessments for school and government operations. The amount of this exemption will increase with future inflation.
2. Eliminate sales tax on home use of electricity, gas and other heating fuels.
3. Increase sales tax by 1.5 cents per dollar to reimburse state and local government and schools for lost tax revenues including new tax relief for renters.
4. Mandate use of net state lottery revenues for schools.
5. Mandate state "Rainy Day" fund.
6. Modify existing constitutional requirements concerning state aid to local government and provide greater millage reductions.
Should this amendment be adopted?

BACKGROUND: Nine bills implementing this proposal have already been passed by the legislature, and will become effective if the proposal passes.

The bills provide for indexing (adjusting for inflation) of some tax exemptions including \$1500 personal income tax, property tax, renter credits, circuit breaker limit and senior citizen income.

The sales tax would increase from 4% to 5.5%. The sales tax on residential utilities will decrease gradually and will stop in 4 years. Revenues collected due to the additional 1 1/2% sales tax will be earmarked to replace revenues lost due to property tax and utility tax relief.

If revenues collected are sufficient, full reimbursement to local units of government will be made. If not, reimbursement will be proportional to the funds available.

A shortfall of revenues is expected starting in 1982.

PRO: Proponents feel this proposal would bring property tax relief to those who need it most: homeowners, renters, and the low-income elderly. Circuit breaker relief would continue as it is in addition to the new \$7100 exemption. The shift to the sales tax would mean greater balance among the three broad-based taxes: income, property, and sales. Tourists and other non-residents would assume a greater share of the cost of state services. The current exemption of food and drugs and the proposed phasing out of residential utility taxes make the sales tax less regressive than its critics claim.

CON: Opponents argue that this shift to the sales tax would result in a heavier tax burden at the lower-income levels. Local units of government are not guaranteed total replacement of the dollars lost if sales tax receipts are not adequate. The expected revenue shortfall in 1982 will cause local governments to experience serious budget problems. Local governments are also concerned they will be hurt by the new adjustments to the state spending requirements of the 1978 tax limitation amendment.

D
Yes
No

PROPOSAL TO DECREASE PROPERTY TAXES AND PROHIBIT NEW TYPES OF HOMESTEAD TAXES; TO REQUIRE 60% VOTER APPROVAL TO RAISE STATE TAXES OR FEES; TO REQUIRE PARTIAL STATE REIMBURSEMENT TO LOCAL UNITS FOR LOST INCOME; TO LIMIT LEGISLATURE'S ABILITY TO CHANGE TAX EXEMPTIONS OR CREDITS OR CHANGE PER-PUPIL FORMULA.

The proposed amendment would:

1. Prohibit new types of homestead taxes.
2. Prohibit new or increased state taxes without 60% voter approval.
3. Provide for taxation of property by class.
4. Eliminate certain property tax exemptions.
5. Reduce appraisal of all property to 25% of 1978 value; limit future residential and agricultural increases to 2% per year.

6. Expand homestead tax reductions for low-income and seniors, including renters.
7. Mandate additional state reimbursement to local governments for portion of lost revenue by possible reduction of some existing state services.
8. Require 4 / 5 vote of legislature to reduce income tax exemptions or credits or change per-pupil formula.
Should the proposed amendment be adopted?

BACKGROUND: The proposed fifty percent reduction in property tax assessments (based on 1978 values) would result in a tax reduction of about \$2.5 billion for Michigan homeowners and renters. The state would be required to reimburse local governments for any revenue loss. The state would have to match local units dollar for dollar for property taxes levied.

Overall this would appear to be a 20% cut in total state spending. However, many funds in the state budget are earmarked for special use by law or Constitution, and the reductions would fall entirely in the General Fund Budget. Without provision for replacement revenues, the effective cut in state services could be over 60%. Judicial clarification may be needed on the elimination of municipal and non-profit properties from tax exemption. Some exempt personal property could also be placed on tax rolls.

The proposal requires uniformity of assessment within a property class. The ratios of true cash values at which property would be assessed could vary from class to class. Residential and agricultural assessment increases would be limited to 2%, and business assessments would be allowed to rise at the rate of the General Price Level. The state would not be required to reimburse local governments for taxes lost due to the 2% limit on increase in residential property tax rates. For local units of government this loss could mean either reducing services or increasing millage rates.

The present constitutional taxing power of the Legislature would be limited. A 4/5 vote would be required to change tax credits, exemptions, rebates or reduce school aid payments. The proposal would constitutionally establish certain tax exemptions. The Legislature now has the power to do this by law. The Legislature's power to tax would not be final because enactment of all new taxes (defined as including any fee, levy, user charge, special assessment, license, permit, weight or volume tax, etc.) or tax increase proposals would be subject to approval by 60% of the voters at a general election.

PRO: Proponents say that residential property taxes would be cut in half, and additional relief would be provided to low income and elderly home owners. The proposal would require the state to repay most of the lost revenue to local units of government. Thus, budget cutting would have to be done at the state level, eliminating wasteful spending and fraud. Proponents say that there will be only a 20% reduction in the state budget, forcing the state to become more efficient and strengthening local government. Voters would be given a say in taxation by requiring that new taxes and tax increases would have to be approved by 60% of the people voting.

CON: Opponents contend that this proposal would leave the legislature with control over only about one tenth of the state budget and seriously cripple state services. Even with state reimbursement, local governments would lose revenues because of the 2% cap on yearly farm and residential assessment increases.

Property tax relief would be offset by the resulting increase in federal income taxes.

The power to tax is a basic power of representative government. To deprive the legislature of that authority is to drastically change the system of government.

The 60% tax approval requirement means a minority could rule on all tax decisions. (41% could overrule 59%)

E
Yes
No

PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT FOUR REGIONAL PRISON FACILITIES, DEMOLISH THE MICHIGAN REFORMATORY, EFFECT OTHER STATE AND LOCAL CORRECTIONAL PURPOSES, DEVELOP PREVENTIVE PROGRAMS, AND PROVIDE THE FUNDS THEREFOR BY INCREASING THE STATE INCOME TAX BY 1 / 10 OF 1% FOR 5 YEAR PERIOD.

The proposed law provides for:

1. Construction of 4 new regional prison facilities.
2. Demolition of Michigan Reformatory.
3. Other state and local correctional purposes and preventive programs.
4. Funding the foregoing with an increase in the state income tax by 1 / 10 of 1% for 5 years beginning in 1-1-81.
Should this law be adopted?

BACKGROUND: Michigan's prison population has almost doubled since 1973. The average length of prison terms has risen from 22 months to over 32 months since 1970. There are currently about 1600 more inmates in Michigan's prisons than they were built to accommodate. The Department of Corrections must house prisoners in areas not designed for housing. This overcrowding limits the availability of space for rehabilitative and diversionary activities and can foster an increase in institutional tension.

The overcrowding has become more serious since voters approved a proposal in 1978 which prohibits the granting of paroles to persons convicted of, and sentenced for, certain

violent crimes before the minimum sentence imposed has been served. Corrections officials predict a shortage of 5,000 beds by 1990 unless new construction is begun and some out-moded facilities are renovated or replaced.

If Proposal E does not pass, members of the Joint Legislative-Administrative Task Force may seek approval of a recommendation which would give the governor emergency powers to allow early release of some prisoners when overcrowding exists.

In July, the Legislature passed a law to implement this proposal but included a requirement that it would not become effective unless approved by the voters in November.

PRO: Prison overcrowding has become worse since the 1978 voter approval prohibiting paroles to certain prisoners. Overcrowding limits space for constructive prisoner activity, and increases potential for disruption and court intervention requiring standards to be met. Regional prisons would allow for beneficial prisoner contacts with family and neighborhood support groups.

CON: Those opposed feel that no new prisons should be built until a total reclassification of current prisoners is accomplished. Many prisoners are currently kept in more secure custody than necessary. Greater use could be made of alternatives to incarceration, such as work release and half way houses. These methods would result in better rehabilitation and less cost to the taxpayers.

G
Yes
No

A PROPOSAL TO ALLOW THE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LAWS RELATING TO THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL EXEMPTION FROM CIVIL ARREST DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.

1. The Michigan Constitution now provides: "Senators and representatives shall be privileged from civil arrest and civil process during sessions of the legislature and for five days next before the commencement and after the termination thereof. They shall not be questioned in any other place for any speech in either house."
2. The proposed amendment would allow the legislature to pass a law to modify this exemption.
Should this amendment be adopted?

BACKGROUND: The original purpose of the legislative immunity provision in the Constitution was to protect legislators from possible repercussions due to their actions as legislators. In early days, they met only for a few months during a two-year term and legal actions could be postponed until they were home again. Today, legislators meet throughout the year. If the proposal passes, the Legislature could pass laws to limit the present grant of immunity from civil arrest and civil process granted to legislators.

PRO: Now that legislators meet full time, there is technically no time when they are not in session, and so are immune from practically any civil action. Some traffic offenses have been changed from criminal to civil status leading to confusion about the applicability of immunity. Immunity can be and has been misused by legislators.

CON: Legislative privilege/immunity is open to interpretation by the courts. A particular legislature could modify the immunity to such an extent that legislators would not be sufficiently protected from harassment or possible repercussions due to their actions as legislators.

H
Yes
No

A PROPOSAL TO RESTRICT THE AUTHORITY OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR AND SET UP A PROCEDURE TO FILL A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

The proposed amendment would:

1. Allow an incumbent legislator to be eligible for appointment to the office of Lieutenant Governor.
2. Eliminate provision making Lieutenant Governor President of the Senate with the right to break the vote.
3. Allow the Governor to appoint to fill a vacancy in the office of Lieutenant Governor, subject to the approval of the appointment by majority vote of both houses of the legislature.
Should this amendment be adopted?

BACKGROUND: The lieutenant governor has for many years been the presiding officer of the Senate, with power to cast a vote to break a tie. This power is exercised only on rare occasion. The lieutenant governor performs duties requested by the governor; this would not be changed by the proposal. The lieutenant governor is presently nominated at the party convention and is elected on the same ballot as the governor. The Constitution provides that during their terms of office, members of the Legislature may not be appointed by a state official to any civil position, including that of lieutenant governor.

PRO: Those in favor feel that the Constitution should provide a method for filling a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor. To ensure separation of the branches of government, the lieutenant governor should not take part in the legislative process.

CON: Opponents note that the state and federal systems have worked well with the Vice-President as the presiding officer of the Senate. Voters who may agree or disagree with only one part of the proposal must accept or reject all three parts.