

Schools make the grade in recent millage votes

A record 93 percent of all renewal millage proposals that were on the ballot in school elections held throughout Michigan last week were approved, the State Board of Education reported.

New millages and combined proposals, however, didn't do as well.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Philip E. Runkel said voters approved 208 of the 218 renewal millage proposals they voted on in Monday's annual school elections, an all-time high percentage.

"This is the highest approval rate for renewal millages in anyone's memory," Runkel said. "It demonstrates that voters in the vast majority of communities in Michigan overwhelmingly support their public schools."

OVERALL, NEARLY two-thirds of all school-millage proposals on the June 13 ballot — renewals, additional millage proposals and combined proposals, including both renewal and additional millage — received voter approval, Runkel said.

Millage proposals, the number approved and defeated and the approval rate were:

- Renewals — 218 proposals, 208 approved, 95 percent.
 - Additional millages — 173 proposals, 47 passed, 27 percent — about the same as last year.
 - Combined — 32 proposals, 20 passed, 63 percent.
- Runkel said the approval rate for combined proposals was up significantly compared to the 1981-82 school year, when less than half of all such proposals received voter approval.

THE STATE superintendent said he believes the

Celebrate Fourth safely and legally

With the Fourth of July approaching, the Michigan State Police are once again explaining the laws regarding fireworks.

Not all "D.O.T. Class C" labeled fireworks are legal in Michigan for use by the consumer. The only fireworks devices which may be sold at the retail level and used by the general consuming public are restricted to the following:

- Toy paper, caps, wire sparklers (size No. 14 or less), fitter sparklers, toy snakes, toy smoke devices, toy trick noisemakers, cone fountains and cylinder fountains.

Fireworks devices, other than those noted, are illegal for sale and use unless proper permits are obtained from the local governing body. Fireworks devices which send a projectile into the air, spin, twirl, or emit an audible signal (excluding toy paper caps and toy trick noisemakers) are illegal.

Local jurisdictions should be contacted to determine if there are ordinances which are more restrictive.

It is suggested that when using fireworks, the following safety precautions be followed:

- Make sure that the fireworks devices are legal for use by local ordinances and state law.
- Check for a manufacturer's label on all fireworks devices and instructions for proper use — illegally manufactured fireworks rarely have either.
- Carefully follow the instructions for use.
- Provide adult supervision for children and do not allow very young children to handle fireworks.
- Light only one device at a time.
- Ignite fireworks only outdoors and away from buildings and combustible materials.
- Do not attempt to alter the device or use in a manner not intended.

• In Michigan during 1982, there were 219 reported fires caused by fireworks which resulted in property loss of approximately \$142,461. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, during 1982 there were 8,500 fireworks-related injuries treated at hospital emergency rooms throughout the nation.

proposed increase in state school aid for the 1983-84 school year was a major factor in the higher approval rate for millages in Monday's elections.

"For the first time since the late 1970s, many school boards are looking forward to an increase in state school aid that was recommended by Gov. Blanchard and is expected to be approved by the Legislature," Runkel said.

"During the last three or four years, many school districts were forced to ask for additional millage to make up for the loss in state aid. This was not the case this year."

"Gov. Blanchard and the Legislature are to be commended for facing up to Michigan's fiscal crisis and approving the increase in state taxes that was needed to avert economic disaster and provide more support for education."

Runkel said that 13 school districts lost all or nearly all of their voted millage as a result of millage renewal defeats Monday and will be unable to operate a minimum program for an entire year unless voters approve a renewal proposal later this summer. None is in the Wayne and Oakland suburbs.

OU music camp for all ages

Oakland University's Department of Music is offering nine summer music programs ranging from instrumental workshops and master classes to show choir and an Orff/Schulwerk Institute.

Instruction levels in the various camps range from beginners to master class and ensemble playing status. For information and costs of the various programs, contact the coordinator of Summer Art Workshops at 377-3018. Many of the programs can be taken for academic credit.

SUMMER MUSIC programs are:

- June 27 to July 1, separate workshops in percussion, flute and clarinet/saxophone.
 - July 18-22, junior high school show choir workshop.
 - July 25-29, jazz and improvisation workshop.
 - Aug. 1-5, musical theater workshop.
- There also will be a workshop on choreography and popular choral music July 11-15, the Oakland Youth Symphony camp on July 4-16, and the Orff/Schulwerk Institute Aug. 8-19, co-sponsored by Oakland University and the Cranbrook Educational Community. This institute will be held at Cranbrook's Bloomfield Hills campus. For information, call 645-3540.

Guest artists include Robert Pangborn, principal percussionist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra; Ervin Monroe, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's principal flutist.

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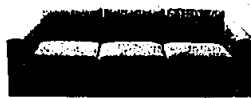
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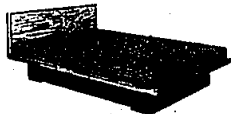
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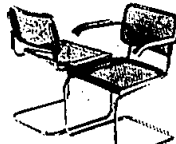
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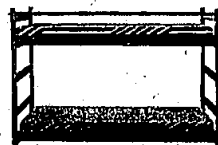
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