

C' would hurt quality of schools — Runkel

Public schools in the tri-county area would lose nearly \$200 million in revenue if Proposal C is approved Nov. 6, the state's top school official contends.

Phillip E. Runkel, state superintendent of public instruction, said the 85 school districts in this area could lose \$197.7 million in state school aid and local tax revenues this year and next if "Voter's choice" passes.

"These revenue cuts would have a significant impact on the quality of education in our state," Runkel said.

At news conferences Monday and Tuesday at the intermediate school district offices in Oakland, Macomb and Wayne counties, Runkel estimated the negative impact on all state districts would be nearly \$500 million in the 1984-85 and 1985-86 school years.

"I'm not telling people how to vote, but I think they should know what the facts are," said Runkel, who was supported at the press conferences by representatives of the Michigan Education Association and Michigan Federation of Teachers.

PROPOSAL C WOULD amend the state constitution to roll back all taxes passed since the end of 1981 but not approved by the voters. It would require voter approval for new taxes, increases and shifts; limit city non-resident income taxes to 0.5 percent; and require a four-fifths vote of a legislative body to increase such fees as tuition.

Its backers say Proposal C would help schools by ensuring that funds raised for education go for education. They contend the Michigan Legislature's appropriations for education have declined as a share of the state budget.

The twin results, according to C's backers: higher property taxes at the local level and higher tuitions for college students.

But Runkel said passage of the amendment would result in the layoff of more than 10,000 classroom teachers. He said in the period 1974-85, the state has reduced its number of teachers from 14,000 to 74,000.

The educator said Michigan is now third in the

nation in pupil-teacher ratio. "If this is passed, we would have the worst pupil-teacher ratio in the nation because we'd be laying off teachers to balance the budget."

RUNKEL SAID proposal would cut sales tax revenue earmarked for school aid. It also would affect school districts' ability to provide education by rolling back all Truth in Taxation property-tax millages approved by school boards since 1981, he explained.

He predicted a "greater shift to property tax and less support for equity. The poorer districts will get poorer and there will be less opportunities for young people."

"Anyone who thinks Proposal C would be good

for the public education doesn't know what they're talking about," said Runkel. "Proposal C would cause terrible cuts in education."

The state school superintendent said reductions in both state school aid and property tax revenue for area schools would be the following if Proposal C passes:

- Oakland — \$10,821,700 in 1984-85, \$53,602,900 in 1985-86.
- Macomb — \$7,305,400 in 1984-85, \$30,851,200.
- Wayne — \$23,141,600 in 1984-85, \$71,984,700.

ALSO CONCERNED about a shift to more reliance on the property tax is William Keane, superintendent of Oakland Schools. As head of the Oakland Intermediate School District, he works with 28 dis-

tricts in the county — some of which rely on state aid to operate their schools.

"We don't want the burden of supporting schools placed on property tax," he said.

"We would revert back to primordial times when districts that are poor were discriminated against. Citizens can give it back at the polls, but I don't see how that would happen."

WAYNE COUNTY Intermediate District Superintendent William Simmons said the proposal would affect all services — from schools to libraries. And he's concerned about that.

"Our schools don't function well without good municipal services. This is a total turnaround in our way of providing services," he added.



Phillip Runkel
'C' means losses

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Police to review car-chase policies

With the arraignment of Oakland County Deputy Roger Geistler on charges of negligent homicide, law enforcement officers across Michigan must question the advisability of high-speed chases, according to Carl Parsell of the Michigan Association of Police (MAP).

Michigan law enforcement officers are angered at the recent trend of prosecuting police officers for legitimate actions taken in the line of duty, Parsell added.

MAP will sponsor a one-day seminar for law enforcement representatives across the state entitled, "To Chase or Not To Chase?" It is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. Nov. 14 in the Southfield Civic Center auditorium.

AMONG THE topics will be department chase policies, liability of becoming involved in chases, how to decide whether or not to chase and the consequences of a decision not to chase.

Oakland County Prosecutor L. Brooks Patterson and the Wayne and Macomb county prosecutors will be invited to explain their positions on police chases and how they expect them to be handled.

Recent cases will have far-reaching effects on how police officers handle their jobs, he said. "We're telling criminals, 'Put the pedal to the metal' and you have a good chance of getting away."

During the past week, the MAP has been deluged with calls from members seeking assistance and guidance in getting involved in high-speed pursuits.

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