## School bond bid may cover more projects

By Casey Hans

A fall bond issue seeking money for a new elementary school may ask Farmington-area voters to ap-prove additional projects. School officials say they may re-quest additional money for building improvements, although such a mea-sure has not yet been approved by the school board.

a bond election in the fall, asking voters for approval to build a new elementary school may she Farmington-area voters to a content to a street district planned for a new elementary.

A fall bond issue seeking money or a new elementary school may she Farmington-area voters to up-towe additional projects.

Some people have this feeling things for the west side of the district sald superintendent Grabably including increase voters to up-towe additional money for building provements and under the school of sticls say they may reusest additional money for building provements on the standard look at all of our renovating all elementaries.

CHANGES WERE also recommended building improvements relating to media should not be ignored as the district planned for a new media center that will cost between \$\$00,000 and \$1\$ million. The recommended building improvements one from a list complete over the past several years, decling more than \$10\$ million in media should and the fall, asking water school of the district. See in the talking stage.

"Some people have this feeling this side." The recommended building improvements one from a list completed over the past several years, decling more than \$10\$ million. The recommended to make frim depuly superintendent Michael on the fall, asking will probably in the provements relating more than \$10\$ million. The recommended to down the district media stond. The media stond the fillion. The recommended to make frim depuly superintendent Michael on the fall, asking will probably in the follow and the media stond in the fall, asking will cost between \$\$00,000 and \$1\$.

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The recommended building improvements one from depuly superintendent Michael on the provements one from a list complete will one of the media should be will one of the actual media charge in the school."

CHANGES WERE also recommende

"WE'RE NO longer a new com-munity," said Lewis. "It's no longer a roof that leaks. It's poor drainage, things you can't see. They're things you can't cover with paint anymore.

"We can't do that out of our budg-

Lewis said if any building additions become necessary, the district may also request money for these on the fall bond issue.

## Senate puts reform proposal on ballot

es would no longer be based on assessments of 50 percent of market value. Instead, residential taxes would be based on 25 percent of market value and business taxes on 5 percent. For homeowners, it would be a 50 percent cut. (Other property taxes — city, township, county, community coffee, school bond, etc.— would continue to be based on 50 percent of market value.

tinue to be based on 50 percent of market value.)

• The sales tax would go up to 6 percent, from the current 4 percent.

• The sales tax would go up to 6 they'll realize it's a net tax increase of \$130 million," said Nichols. "The

law, he said, the sales tax is no long-

Continued from Page 1

• School operating property taxes would no longer be based on ases would no longer be based on asent instead of 10.7 percent.

Under the new federal income tax
law he said the sales tay is no long.

The proposal now is in a House coment instead of 10.7 percent.

er deductible from taxable income, although property taxes still are.

Nichols' third objection is that a I percent sales tax increase would stand a better chance of voter approval than the proposed 2 percent.

His fourth objection is that the jain fails to address the problem of wide variations between school districts in per-pupil spending, "This gives evertices in per-pupil spending."

"But at least we got the ball rolling — that's the silver lining. (House

Plymouth, Canton and Redford, voted yes even though "it's not a good proposal. But people should have the right to vote and decide."

Out-of-formula districts such as Livenia and South Redford have "nothing to gain," in Geake's view. "Plymouth-Canton, Clarenceville and Redford Union probably would benefit in their school hudgets."

benefit in their school budgets."

Geake recalled voters rejected three earlier proposals to shift from property taxes to sales or other taxes. He agreed that the state sales tax wouldn't be deductible under the federal income tax law.

Geake said one good effect of the sales tax increase was that "a certain percentage will be paid by non-residents, but we don't know how much."



cleaner plan

sales tax rate hike would cost that

much."

MOST ENTHUSIASTIC was Cruce, whose district includes Birmingham as well as Troy.

"In my district, there have been significant increases in assessments. By Cruce's calculations, a household with a \$3,000 total property tax before the significant increases in assessments. By Cruce's calculations, a household with a \$3,000 total property tax before the significant increases of the significant increases of the significant increases in assessments. By Cruce's calculations, a household with a \$3,000 total property tax before the significant increase of the significant includes the significant increases in assessments. By Cruce said, such a bousehold store of two allowed such solved such as the significant includes the significant increases in assessments. By Cruce said, such a bousehold store of two at a tax break under SIR K. "It's a very good proposition of closing the gap from district to the significant includes the significa

## Schools are cautious about tax plan IF PROPERTY taxes are cut, "we know the revenues have to come from somewhere," Grant added, "and the increase to the sales tax was a very possible vehicle. We didn't get into the specifics of how to do it."

Continued from Page 1

As it reads, the Senate proposal As it reach, the Schale proposition for Farmington schools, Flanagan said. "It only works if they guarantee us what we currently get.
"In present form, it's great."

FARMINGTON SCHOOL officials, especially Flanagan, have taken a realistic look at school finance form during the data that equity in school finance reform is coming, "whether it's legislated, or done through the courts."

Prutow concurs. "We're going to have to face it — changes are going to the school financing comes from local property laxes.

Many of these taxes come from

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the business community. Under the Senate proposal, both business and Prutow said, is that reform will force education everywhere to become "mediocre."

"They're starting to address the quality (in education) issue," she added.

FINANCE REFORM is meant to equalize the dollars spent on each child in Michigan. In high property where the dollars spent on each child in Michigan. In high property that districts such as Farmington, like abusiness owners. Conference on Small Businesses in his role as a location of the substiness owners.

cal business owner.

If the issues discussed are any indication, the proposal may receive support from the business community.

Property tax reform was one of the main issues discussed, he said.

"We're going to tinker around with it; I don't know how it will come out," he added.

Brotherton also said he doubts vot-ers would pass a two-cent sales tax ers would increase.

State Rep. Wilbur Brotherton, R-Farmington, said the Senate proposal "has some merit" but he does not believe it will pass the House in its current form.



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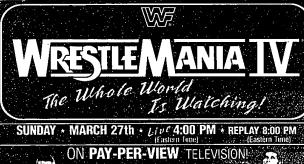


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