

Polls show 'A' is front runner

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ties, commercial facilities and tech park facilities taxes.

Moreover, state Department of Education programs would be capped at 5 percent of the total so that the new money couldn't go to Lansing and stay there.

The background: In fiscal 1979-80, school aid was \$945 million a year, but by the bottom of the recession in 1983, it had dipped to \$360 million. Today it's on an upward curve of \$600 million — up 40 percent since the recession, but still below the peak of 1979.

PROPOSAL B would reduce

school operating property taxes by a gross of \$1.3 billion, minus \$200 million in lost "circuit breaker" rebates. Those rebates are paid to families whose property taxes exceed 3.5 percent of household income.

The most-controversial portion of Proposal B, however, is tax base sharing. Some 14 mills of property tax on business and nine mills on homes and farms would be collected in a statewide pot.

To conservative outstate lawmakers, that is elemental fairness — helping kids regardless of which side of a political boundary they live on. To a liberal Democrat like Maxine

Berman of office-rich Southfield, it is "Marxism."

IF, AS WIDELY predicted, both proposals fail, many school districts will be in trouble, either immediately or in a couple of years.

So in the meantime, two education-oriented senators — John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek, and Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills — are preparing a bill to reduce the number of K-12 school districts from some 560 to about 250.

Prime targets for consolidation would be those with fewer than 2,000 pupils.

Arts adventure Sellout series geared to kids/parents

Artist/teacher, Sally Kaplan of Birmingham hoped for a good response to her first Arts Adventure for Parents and Children held earlier this year. But, she didn't dream it would be an immediate sellout, which it was.

The feedback was so good that she's organized a second one which will start Saturday, Nov. 11 and continue each Saturday through Dec. 9. The tuition, \$250 for the series or \$75 per session includes one adult and one child.

This series begins with a watercol-

or workshop with Jerome Ferrell at Michigan Gallery. Included in the series will be a tour of the Detroit Institute of Arts, conducted by Hope Palmer, Nov. 11; a visit to Gilda Snowden's studio, a talk in Detroit Focus Gallery and a private flute recital by Ginka Gerova-Ortega, Nov. 18; Ceramic workshop with Tom Phardel and glass blowing demonstration with Albert Young, Dec. 2; and a theater workshop conducted by Theatre Grotesco, Dec. 9.

Kaplan, trained as a nurse in her native North Ireland, came to the

United States to work at Johns Hopkins. After marrying and now in the process of raising a family, she earned a degree in art from Center for Creative Studies.

She has worked in India with Mother Theresa, stayed with the Bedouins in North Africa, and joined Miarred Corrigan, Nobel Peace Prize winner, in her efforts to bring peace to Northern Ireland.

Reservations for the series are limited. For information, call 644-4324.

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