

# 69th candidates push school aid, tax reform

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projects, such as fire stations, which should be financed with local tax money. "It's got to stop. We have to remove the excesses."

Brickner, a Birmingham attorney and precinct delegate, suggests two other ways of financing education. Money forfeited from drug sellers and users should be turned over to local schools, particularly for substance abuse education.

"It's like the polluter pay theory. Let the pushers pay for their folly. It

would be a good source of income and it wouldn't hurt taxpayers," said the seven-year Farmington Hills resident.

An increased tax on alcohol could be used for education, as well, such as in alcohol education or rehabilitation, Brickner said. "That wouldn't take away from general revenues."

Dolan suggests several things. First, if the state plans to take from the wealthier districts, the taking should be phased in, unlike the abrupt loss of \$5.8 million in the Farmington Public Schools in July.

Phasing in such cuts would allow a district to readjust their budgets and set a new set of priorities.

"They should leave the ones willing to pay for it (with local taxes) alone," Dolan said. "Give to those who need it. But I think districts need to prove they need the money." The freshman legislator also believes that if property tax relief isn't provided soon, "we'll be ready to see a taxpayer revolt."

LIKE BRICKNER, Dolan believes tax breaks to older people on fixed

incomes should be improved by increasing the current \$1,200 homestead tax exemption on their state income tax.

Both the state Senate and House have their own versions for such an increase to about \$2,400-\$2,500. "But the reality is that the one from the Senate will not get up to the House because it's Republican. The one from the House won't get to the Senate because it's Democratic," Dolan said.

In other words, once the Nov. 6 general election has passed, some-

thing may happen with the homestead credit.

"Tax relief must come in the form of limiting a city's ability to increase the assessment on real property to nothing greater than inflation," Brickner said.

Any adjustments on property value to show the actual value could come at the time of sale. Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements would make it easy to determine actual sales prices, Brickner added.

Michigan is among a small group

of states with incredibly heavily reliance on property taxes. A property tax assessment is generally 50 percent of the "usual selling price" of a house. Taxes are levied against the assessed price of property.

"We go up faster than inflation," Dolan said.

Dolan believes that if the state budget is picked over with a fine tooth comb to remove excesses and things that shouldn't be in there, there would be enough tax revenues even with a reduction in the 50 percent assessment requirement.

## Letter was his, says prof

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Neither the OCC Royal Oak campus' academic dean or a representative in the school's public relations office could be reached to comment on the issue, or offer details on college policy relating to use of OCC letterhead or postage.

The THRO organization was started last June by Jack Gargan of Tampa, Fla., who was fed up with the way government ran and wanted to start a movement to get fresh blood into the system. He started by collecting enough money to run a full-page ad in the St. Petersburg Times, and has since collected enough money to run ads in 190 other papers across the country.

A spokeswoman at the THRO offices in Tampa said the all-volunteer organization is not keeping track of membership numbers, but that in the past four days they had received some 10,000 pieces of mail.

"When the mailman toots his horn, you know you're in trouble," she said. "This movement will make history."

Gargan has been seen on a number of national newscasts, and has been a guest on the Larry King, Phil Donohue and Inside Edition.

## military news

If you have military news with a Farmington area connection, send it to: Military News, Farmington Observer, 21898 Farmington Road, Farmington 48326.

### COMPLETES SIX-WEEK CAMP

Cadet John Burgess of Farmington Hills received practical work in military leadership at the U.S. Army ROTC advanced camp, Fort Lewis, Wash. The six-week camp, attended by cadets normally between their third and fourth year of college, includes instruction in communications, management and survival training.

Successful completion of the advanced camp and graduation from college results in a commission as a second lieutenant in either the U.S. Army, Army Reserve or National Guard for the cadet. He is a student at Ohio University, Athens.

### JOINS PROGRAM

Daniel Mullendore of Northville joined the U.S. Army Delayed Entry Program. He is currently a senior at Farmington High School.

He will be reporting for his basic training at Fort Leonard, MO.

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