

Tax for schools

The Feb. 5 special election for two millage increases is designed to offset the loss of \$5.8 million taken through state legislation. Passage of the second proposal is contingent on passage of the first. Property owners of a \$100,000 home with a State Equalized Value of \$50,000 would pay an additional \$105 a year if the first proposal is passed - \$185 if both are approved. The language of the proposals is shown below.

Proposition 1

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed on all property in the Farmington Public School District be increased for a period of ten years, beginning July 1, 1991, by two and seven tenths (2.7) mills on each dollar (\$2.70 per \$1,000) of state equalized valuation to be used for defraying a portion of the operating expenses of the school district?

Proposition 2

In the event proposition 1, above on this ballot, is approved at this election by a majority of the votes cast on proposition 1, then in addition to the millage increase approved in proposition 1, shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed on all property in the Farmington Public School District be increased for a period of ten years, beginning July 1, 1991, by 1.0 mill on each dollar (\$1.00 per \$1,000) of state equalized valuation for the purpose of renovating, expanding and repairing existing buildings in the school district?

Source: Farmington Public Schools

Tax campaign stirs emotions

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240 parents called Friends of Farmington Schools, who are working for passage of both proposals. A number of members attended Monday's meeting to offer support, offering Flanagan a standing ovation at the end of his presentation.

MUCH OF the information offered Monday was a repeat of items discussed at school board meetings during the past several months. Some highlights offered by Flanagan include:

- Money from the 2.7 mills is needed to make up for the \$5.8 million recaptured by the state last summer, projected student increases and the new teachers and costs related to that, and jumps in a number of areas including insurance and gasoline costs. Flanagan said the district considered an increase in local State Equalized Valuation, property tax values of five percent. He said the board would not levy the full 2.7 mills unless it was needed.

- The district expects to lose more money, especially with talk of property tax cuts in Lansing. Flanagan said the district could lose up to \$4 million more than the \$5.8 million recaptured last summer. "It shouldn't be a mystery that this is happening," he said.

- How the proposed capital money from the second proposition will be used has not yet been determined, but Flanagan said a continued building upgrade program is necessary. "We didn't want to tie the hand of a future superintendent. A future board."

- If the millage measures fail, a total of 106 employees will be laid off including 23 custodial and maintenance employees. The employee layoffs would equal about \$3 million in savings, and Flanagan said he would be "a major proponent for reducing transportation" costs.

A NUMBER of side election issues were raised Monday, including pressure from some people in the community who are carefully monitoring the district to ensure it does not promote a "yes" vote. Flanagan said the district had "understated" the upcoming election, because of that eagle eye from the community.

He pledged the district would "not be intimidated" in future elections by the visible anti-publicity campaign which has plagued this effort. "We have tied our hands," he said. "We will not handle this campaign this way again."

THE DISTRICT continues to take a pounding from anti-millage factions in the community. Including new advertisements this week from Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of Farmington Hills, whose chairman Richard Headlee and other employees are incensed over rising property taxes and how they are impacting the average taxpayer. The company pays \$600,000 per year in local taxes, and Headlee said the new millage would mean another \$44,000 per year for them.

"They don't have to even tighten their belt — they just have to stay on the same notch," added economist Patrick Anderson, an Alexander Hamilton spokesman and Farmington resident who has been vocal in his opposition.

Ironically, Headlee has championed the causes of education funding on a state level, where he wants the issue to be rectified. He has said he does not want local taxpayers to foot the bill because the issue is not being handled by state legislators.

Another group of "several dozen residents," Citizens for Quality Schools headed by parent Richard DeVries, will be blanketing the community this weekend with anti-millage literature and telephone calls to get people out to vote.



Speaking out

Forest Elementary students (from left) Jason and Melissa Klein, Dana Kaplan and Katie Murphy want everyone to know their opinion on the upcoming school millage election Tuesday. They've started a T-shirt campaign with the slogan "51 cents a day?"

"I'm worth it. Vote 'yes' Feb. 5." The price reflects the cost to the average taxpayer should both Proposition 1 and 2 pass. The children's parents paid for the shirts, done by Brody's in West Bloomfield.

Hills deputy police chief rescues choking victim

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cor said, adding it was the first time he ever used the technique, which he learned quite a few years ago.

When restaurant patrons saw Palmer was OK, they gave Spencer a round of applause. Palmer then went back to work.

"A thank-you is so small, I think God he happened to be there. There is nothing I can say to express my thanks. How can you express how you feel?" said Palmer, who said she gave Spencer a hug after the ordeal.

PALMER RECALLS eating in a hurry Thursday because she was running late. After she realized her food was stuck in her throat, she ate a piece of bread, hoping it would push down the lodged food.

"I had been eating ranch fries and probably too fast. It was my fault," Palmer said. "He (Spencer) was very calm. I could feel my knees buckling."

Spencer believes in fate. He usually brings his own lunch to work but decided at the last minute to join Dwyer and Walled Lake police Chief

Ken Borico at the Brass Pointe Thursday.

Before Dwyer left for the restaurant he asked Spencer to join him. Spencer declined, saying he brought a frozen meal for lunch. But when he went to put it in the microwave, Spencer found it had already thawed and had possibly spoiled. He joined Dwyer about 20 minutes after the chief left for lunch.

"I said, 'Well, I have to eat somewhere,'" Spencer said. "I was meant to be there."

Hills resident has beef with Wendy's

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(and Cranston's frustration), Mell learned that the city ordinance does not address access to the parking spots on private land. It only states that businesses must designate specific spots for the handicapped.

"There's no mandate that deals with clearing those spots," Cranston said. "Our hands are tied. We can't tell

them to clear the area. There's no ordinance on city books, but there is some research being done into state and federal law."

Cranston said that the police department contacted city attorney John Donohue last November about making changes in the ordinance and Donohue is apparently doing the research.

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