POINTS OF VIEW

Proposal A eases tax burden, says county exec

By L. BROOKS PATTERSON SPECIAL WRITER

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By Wednesday, June 2, Michigan voters will have an opportunity to do semething about the heavy burden of property taxes. We can cut them and limit future assessment

Here are some arguments in support

of Proposal A.

Proposal A cuts school operating tax rates on our property tax bill by an average of 35 percent. Michigan has the fourth highest property tax burden in America. This cut will put us slightly below the national average.

Proposal A most importantly, in my mind anyway, limits future assessment increases to five percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. No more 15 to 30 percent property tax hikes in the future. We have a cap on assessment; seniors are protected; you and I are protected.

protected.

Proposal A closes the school funding

gap by guaranteeing a solid foundation of \$4,800 for every child in every school district in Michigan. We have addressed honestly and fairly the funding disparity that exists between school districts. (If we don't support Proposal A, we run the real risk of having a federal Judge someday take over the Michigan school system and dictate a corrective program without votor input.) We don't want the federal government taking away local control of our schools. Proposal A gives us the protection we're looking for in that regard. Yes, there is a sales tax increase from four to six percent, but I'll hold my nose on that part of Proposal A and still vote for it. The reason I'll vote for its very simple: Last year Proposal C (the Governor's Cut'n Cap Proposal) went down to defeat and the post mortem with votors across the state revealed they were upset because the educational component of that particular proposal was not funded. In other

words, the voters wanted to see how the governor was going to fund education. He's done so in Proposal A. If there is a saving grace about a sales tax increase, we know that a projected \$320 million will be generated by tourists who come to Michigan — our second largest industry.

Proposal A puts into the Constitution a guarantee that 100 percent of the lottery money will be dedicated to fund our public schools. The Constitution is the supreme law of this state. The lottery shell game, once and for all, is over.

over.

The substantial net tax reduction in the current year (approximately \$1.1 billion statewide), smaller tax reduction in future years and the increase in wealth of Michigan residents will stimulate Michigan seconomy. The additional disposable income will generate increased private sector jobs in the state, and the reduction in property taxes will encourage investment in

plant and equipment among Michigan industries.

What's in it for renters? Your rent goes up every year as the landlord passes on to your his increasing property tax costs. If property taxes are capped, this coutly pass through would be expected to diminish.

For 20 years, the angry voices of Michigan residents have reverberated from every corner of the state, protesting the one-rous property tax burden and chidding their elected officials to do something about it. The debate over what to do has raged on and on, but no consensus could be reached — that is until now.

Groups with widely different agendas and prespectives on issues have

Groups with whonly different agen-des and perspectives on issues have gotten on the Proposal A bandwagon. Democrats and Republicans are back-ing this proposal, so are business and labor. Also lining up behind Proposal A are such groups as the Michigan Ed-ucation Association, the Michigan Ed-

Foderation of Teachers, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce and the Michi-gan Manufacturers Association. No, Proposal A is not perfect; we do not live in a perfect world. But Propos-al A does represent change for the bet-

al A does represent change for the better.
As you cast your vote on June 2,
think of the elderly homeowner who
can no longer afford the property taxes
and is forced to move, or think of the
child not receiving the education deserved because of school funding inequities, or think of the business ownerwho just can't make it anymore because of high taxes. A vote for Proposal
A is a vote for them.
For their sake and sake of Michigan's future, I urge you to vote yes on

For their sake and sake of Michi-gan's future, I urge you to vote yos on Proposal A.
L. Brooks Patterson serves as Oak-land County Executive. You may con-tact him at the Executive Office Build-ing, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac 48341-0409.

'Senioritis' results from leaving nest syndrome

QUESTION: Our daughter's gradua-tion day is in a couple of weeks. It seems to be affecting her more than we anticipated. Does graduation from high school or even college affect all seniors

school or even college affect all seniors this way?

ANSWER: Graduation and everything that goes with it not only impact this year's 1993 graduating seniors, but teachers, administrators and parents alike. Some observations and comments of graduation time and the year that follow I picture in my mind include:

clude:
In the next few weeks, senior classmates will write thoughts in their classmates' yearbooks that are untainted and straight from the heart. And years later, many will pick up their yearbooks, read and reread those remarks, and realize how wonderful

high school days were.

We Those seniors involved in athletics, the band, the yearbook, school plays, cheerleading, and school clubs will forget the "bad" things and retain only fond momories of their greatest game, the best school play, the band's greatest gight—memories that will be shared and embellished at class reunions.

ions.
And, yes, seniors graduating this year will wander through the school halls these last weeks kind of spaced out! Many, like your daughter, won't be able to grasp the fact that they are leading an anvironment that was their

able to grasp the fact that they are leaving an environment that was their home away from home for 13 years. If you had ever been a high school teacher, counselor or principal, it truly is a beautiful time — but also a time of relief, knowing the seniors with all



their "senioritis" attitudes and behavtheir "senioritis" attitudes and behav-lors will soon be out the door. And yet all the lecturing and behav-lor modifications teachers and princi-pals lay on the seniors during these iast week in high school seem worth

I have fond memories of my college days, but those formative high school years, when everything was a new experience, was sever really duplicated.
So, as a parent, think back and you can certainly recall how it was to graduate from high school to "leave the nest." It's the end of an era h an environment in which you spent 13 of your first 18 years, or about 72 percent of your daylight hours from September through June. That's a big hunk of your life!
Your daughter is not acting strange-

Your daughter is not acting strange-ly; she is dealing with the greatest en-vironmental change she has ever expe-

Regardiess of all the bravado the gra-duating seniors are exhibiting right now (including college graduates), they instinctively sense they are now enter-

ing the real world.
And frankly, life out in this real world is wonderful, but it also can be a real "bummer." Too often you "swim with the sharks" while avoiding the piranha. Anyone who has been in a demeaning work environment knows those whom I am talking about.

So let's give a hardy welcome to the real world — to the next generation, to those who will "carry the torch" — the graduates of 1993.

God bless!

James "Doc" Doyle, a former teach-er/school administrator/university in-structor, is president of Doyle and As-sociates, an educational consulting firm. To leave a message for Doyle from a touch-tone dial 953-2047, mailbox 1856.

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