Readers' questions on Proposal A answered here

By Tim Richard
STATY WHITEL

This is the final installment of answers to readers'
questions about Proposal A on the March 15 ballot.
Q. Is the real estate transfer tax deductible on
the income tax?

A. No, says the state treasurer's office.
Currently, the Legislature has reduced the rate to
0.75 percent, or \$750 per \$100,000. Leavmakers are
dickering over whether to give the cut immediate effect. Best guess: They'll vote immediate effect after
the March 15 election.
Q. On the question of putting your Social Socurity number on the homestead affidavit (to get
the lower property tax rate), your facts are totally erroneous. The federal Privacy Act protocts
your Social Security number. You should feel
protty bad about misleading the community.
Shame on yould be seen the seed of the property to the second of the property to the second of the property to the second of the se

come tax return.
Q. Must I file an affidavit if I don't think I'm

ligible for the homestead rate?

A. No. If you sign the affidavit, you're saying you

are eligible. It's for homeowners and only for the domicile, or principal residence.

Q. My husband was transferred here. We're renting temporarily. Our house in western Michigan is for saie but empty. Are we eligible for the homestead rato?

A. Yau was a constant.

homestead rate?

A You must own and occupy your principal residence to be eligible for the homestead rate.

But there's hope. Lawmakers are working on a system of pro-rating the tax for the months in which you occupied the home. Meanwhile, the governor has ordered the Treasury Department to set up an anxeels process.

ordered the Tressury Department to set up an appeals process, the hospital for surgery March 18, 12 and 19, 18 and 19 and

A. "Yes, unless the home is occupied by someone other then your spouse or dependents," says Treas-

other than your spouse or dependents, says accounty.

Q. My daughter and I are co-owners of each others' homes. I live in Detroit, and she lives in Liveria. We signed each other's homestead affidavits. How can we correct the mistake?

A. Yes, you did make a mistake by signing two affidavits, But you can fix it.

File "amended" returns with just one signature and add an explanatory note. Deliver them to your

local assessors. Ask the assessors to pull out the incorrect form.

You should file in Detroit and your daughter in Livonia because that's where you live.

Q. I'd like to see both proposals in print.

A. There's only one proposal — A on the March 15 ballot. Plan B is the legislative backup plan, which becomes law automatically if Proposal A is defeated. Proposal A will be summarized in 100 words on the ballot. Actually, it is an amendment to Article IX of the Michigan Constitution and runs a couple thousand words. Moreover, its adoption will affect 26 different statutes running into hundreds of pages. Plan B consists of the afore-mentioned statutes. Statutes affecting school finance reform are: PA 312-314, 322-334, 336, 338 and 340.

Statutes affecting education reform are: PA 320-321, 335, 337, 339 and 362.

Our newspapers and the dallies have printed many stories adequately summarizing the plans. Suggestion: Pay no attention to the bombastic TV commercials that began last week and will runny through election day.

Q. I'd like to see a list of major supporters on each side.

A. For Proposal A: Gov. John Engler, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, business groups in general,



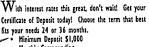
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