



Ready to run?
State Sen. Jack Faxon, photographed with art he's collected, has some political decisions to make.

Faxon plans May decision on run for Senate

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

State Sen. Jack Faxon said although he's confused by the numbers game concerning what district he'll run in this fall, he's at least encouraged by recent actions in the House of Representatives.

Faxon, D-Farmington Hills, will likely not have his current district to run in if the federal courts reapportion Senate districts this summer. And the

House appears ready to change districts for state representatives as well.

"The House changes would increase the number of minority (controlled) districts from 11 to 13," he said. "They are creating districts that cross eight miles."

The Michigan Supreme Court had ruled for breaking existing county boundaries, but the decisions on House and Senate districts will still rest with the courts, Faxon said.

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State Sen. Jack Faxon

"That decision (by the Supreme Court) certainly will break down the major hurdles (to reapportionment)," said Faxon, 57. "But the courts have the authority to postpone a decision."

include Southfield, Oak Park and Ferndale, which tend to vote Democratic. Farmington and Farmington Hills have traditionally been stronger for the Republicans.

The 30-year lawmaker said he doesn't think he'd fare well in his district if he had to run again this fall.

"Farmington Hills is a very Republican area," the former teacher said. "Even the people who like me there don't like me

that well."

Faxon was in the minority of legislators who opposed and worked against Proposal A, which passed by a 2-to-1 margin. The proposal, which eliminates the bulk of property taxes and increases the state's sales tax by 2 percent, had the backing of Gov. John Engler and most area legislators.

Faxon said he would make a decision on whether he will run again sometime in May.

State not sharing revenue: Hills budget feels squeeze

By BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

The Farmington Hills City Council is wrestling with an issue that is becoming like a vise on the city's budget — state revenue sharing.

Put in another way, the issue is less state revenue sharing. Councilman Aldo Vagnozzi said the state is lessening its commitment of an 11 percent increase in state revenue sharing to 6 percent. That difference will cost Farmington Hills about \$200,000. This will be the fifth straight year of getting less state money than the city had been planning to receive, about a \$2 million shortfall over that time period.

"Every time you turn around the state asks us to do more and then takes away revenue sharing," Vagnozzi said.

Councilwoman Joanne Smith agreed.

"The state thinks it's free for them," she said. "We are the ones who have to hold the line."

The state is shifting state revenue

sharing money, but not to make up for a deficit, Smith said. At some point cities like Farmington Hills have to do more than pay lip service to reducing the size of government, said councilwoman Nancy Bates.

"If we really want less taxes and less government then we are going to have to temper our requests," Bates said. "Six percent is greater than the cost of living and greater than inflation."

Vagnozzi countered that the city was not asking for more money than it had already been promised, adding that the state government's "unfunded mandates" cost money that municipalities must come up with on their own. The city should at least protest, because otherwise, the state will continue "the raid on our funds," Vagnozzi said.

Councilman Terry Sever suggested the council take a week and then decide whether to protest the state's action.

In other action, the council: Voted 7-0 to determine a special assessment district for road

improvements for Mayfield Street, Cadillac Avenue and Power Road in Section 34 of the city.

Enacted an ordinance modifying screening requirements for satellite reception antennas. The requirements include a maximum height requirement of 14 feet, rear yard location and that the cost of screening shall not exceed 50 percent of the purchase and installation cost of the equipment.

Considered a request to include money for a sidewalk along the north side of Freedom Road to Gill Road for residents of Freedom Square. The issue will be part of the city's budget discussions in May, Costick said.

Voted to participate in the Detroit Cleanup Program on April 23. The city will provide a garbage truck, dump truck, stake truck and front end loader along with personnel.

Voted to apply for a noise reduction grant for an additional 1-275 noise wall.

Endorsed a grant application for landscaping improvements for the Eight Mile Boulevard.



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Bash to splash up money for charity

Splash Splash ... they'll be having a bash at Village Green of Farmington Hills at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 17, for the second annual Splash Day for The Rainbow Connection, a Michigan charity that grants the wishes of terminally ill children.

Local media celebrities and other adventurers will take the plunge by having the chilly waters of Village Green's swimming pool at Splash Day '94.

Commission says look for marks of beauty

The Farmington Beautification Commission is looking for spring clues showing that this hard winter is past, while preparing to view this year's projects.

The commission is asking the community — businesses, churches, schools, subdivisions, apartments and condominium complexes — to assist in recognizing community beautification efforts.

The first step is to fill in an ap-

plication for judging. Applications were mailed to more than 500 businesses and organizations in Farmington.

Judging will focus on several categories: new landscaping, exterior building renovations, flowers and other plantings, and window display. Christmas decoration is a new category.

Call Chairperson Rosemary Fitzpatrick at 474-2920 for additional applications. The forms

should be returned to Fitzpatrick, 33718 Shiawassee, Farmington 48335.

Judging will begin in June, and extend through August for this year's award plaques. Volunteer members of the Beautification Commission evaluate all entries.

A mayor's trophy will be awarded to "The Best of the Best." This trophy is a new award given to the highest-scoring business establishment.

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