

# League of Women Voters Guide-Pro & Con of Schoolcraft Vote

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ELECTION GUIDE

School Election—Monday, June 13, 1966  
Polls Open—7 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
The League of Women Voters is a national, volunteer, non-partisan organization established in 1920 to encourage active and informed citizen participation in government.

It never supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. This report on candidates was prepared as a public information service by the League of Women Voters of Livonia. In addition, the League explains the Schoolcraft College Millage Increase Proposal.

Information on candidates was gathered from two questionnaires sent to each candidate. One questionnaire asked for biographical data and the second contained two questions prepared by the LWV, regarding the specific office for which the candidate is running.

Questionnaires were sent to all candidates for the office of Livonia Public School Board Trustee, and Clarenceville District School Board Trustee.

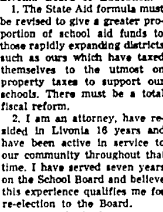
QUESTIONS ASKED CANDIDATES: (Candidates asked to limit replies to 100 words.)  
1. In view of our rising school population how do you propose to meet the financial challenges of property taxes, Federal or State aid, other methods?

2. What special qualifications or experience will you bring to the school board?

**LIVONIA BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
TERM: Four years—one to be elected.  
COMPENSATION: \$600 annually.

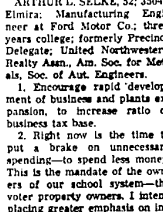


**CLARENCEVILLE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
TERM: Three years—one to be elected.  
COMPENSATION: \$380 annually.



1. The financial challenge can only be met by increased revenues from the state level. The Livonia Board of Education and its staff have and should continue to work very closely with members of the state legislature and other boards of education to provide for further increases in state aid.

2. My qualifications in school matters is backed by seven years of experience as a trustee on the Livonia Board of Education and the Schoolcraft Community College Board of Trustees. Also, my financial analysis background brings a sound knowledge of budgets and cost controls to the board.



1. I would suggest a change from the present system to a State Income Tax only if the authority to govern the School System remain in the hands of our residents. This change would then replace the present property tax. Bureau of control must be kept at a minimum.

2. Sixteen years of management in industry, plus a knowledge of practices, business experience which when applied to school problems should bring a different point of view to the

entire board. When combined with the talents of other Board Members, more satisfactory solutions to problems would result.

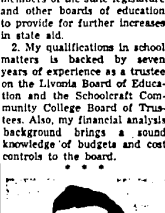


1. A State Income Tax. This would mean a complete tax change in our present system. Overburdened taxpayers would be relieved. Each child would receive equal amount for education. All wage earners, the complete population, would share equally in the financial support of our B-educational System through Liv State.

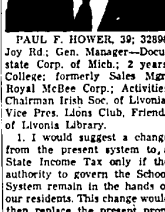


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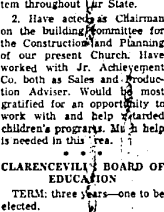
entire board. When combined with the talents of other Board Members, more satisfactory solutions to problems would result.

term on the Board has given an enlightened working knowledge of the school system.



1. We all must accept the responsibility of community leadership and act to attract business to Clarenceville. The addition of commercial enterprises, new business and professional office buildings, retail establishments, and filling in our industrial zoning, will meet any financial needs our rising school population could exert without adding directly to that need.

2. The scientific background of my profession as an Optometrist has endowed me with an ability to deal with issues in laboratory objectivity, always with an open mind, to act impartially to the advantage of the children in our schools.



1. I feel that a State Income Tax would be the best means of financing and of meeting the rising school population. By this method the retirees and those on Social Security would not be as hard hit. But in the Clarenceville District we do not expect much of an increase as there is not much room left for building.

2. Having been President of the PTA, I was introduced to the problem of all components of the school system—the teacher, the parent and the student. With one daughter graduated, one in school and one yet to start, my interest will certainly be kept alive.



1. I feel the people of the Clarenceville School System have carried the burden of school taxes very well. I think the State and Federal Govern-

ments should develop more programs, such as N.D.E.Z., Head Start Program, just to mention some of the programs already provided.

2. Having been a Board Member, I have given me insight on their problems and solving of them. Also, having been active in all phases of school activities, I believe this has enabled me to understand and foresee future demands for Clarenceville students.

**SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE MILLAGE PROPOSAL**  
PROPOSITION 1  
"Shall the annual tax rate of not to exceed one mill (\$1.00 on each \$100.00), authorized to be levied by the Board of Trustees on the real and tangible personal property of the Northwest Wayne County Community College District be increased by 77/100 mill on each dollar (\$0.77 on each \$1.00) of the assessed valuation, as equalized, of the property within the district, in the manner and for the purposes provided by Act 188 of the Public Acts of 1955, as amended?"

The Schoolcraft Community College District was formed in October, 1961, by a positive vote of the school districts of Clarenceville, Garden City, Livonia and Plymouth. It was later joined by Northville. In June, 1962, a majority vote of the entire community college district approved the levying of one mill in property taxes (\$1 mill for operating expenses and 1/2 mill for bonds sold to finance land acquisition and construction).

At the time it was anticipated that land and buildings would be financed by \$4.5 million in 20 year bonds. However, due to legal restrictions, the college was only able to sell \$2.5 million in 14 year bonds. In June, 1964, the voters authorized selling an additional \$1.25 million in 20 year bonds. This bond issue did not require additional millage due to an increase in assessed valuation of the Community College District.

State and Federal sources provide approximately matching funds to those collected from the district for operating and construction costs of the college.

The college at present has about 2,500 students, with a projected enrollment of 3,000 in September, 1966. A new Vocational—Technical Building is scheduled to open in the fall which will provide new programs in culinary arts for chefs and automotive services.

The 77 mills that is being requested is for both operating ex-

penses and debt retirement. The following use of the millage is projected:

1. Operation—45 mills to be used for additional teachers, library books and supplies and materials for the new programs.

2. Debt Retirement—32 mills to issue \$3 million in new bonds to equip the new Vocational—Technical building and to provide matching State and Federal grants for two additional buildings, humanities classroom bldg. and physical education plant.

According to college authorities, approximately 45 mills could be levied without a vote of the people. This millage would be used for debt retirement of existing bonds. However, there is a question as to the legality of levying the additional 1/2 mill for the issuance of the new bonds without the college district's approval; and thus the total 77 mills was put on the ballot. College authorities further state that, if the millage issue fails, it will be necessary to raise tuition. The additional millage will cost a homeowner whose house is assessed at \$7,500 about \$5.75 in additional taxes yearly on the unequalized evaluation. All registered voters including non-property owners may vote on the June 13th ballot. A simple majority of those voting in the Community College District as a whole is required for passage of the proposal.

Those in favor say:

1. Both enrollment and implementation of new programs will be severely curtailed without this millage. Without it the enrollment would have to remain at the present level of 2,500 students. The college would not be able to staff or equip the Vocational—Technical building on an adequate level and use of the new building would be limited. The college would lose matching State and Federal grants for two new buildings, resulting in increased expenditures in the future.

2. There are increasing costs in salaries, supplies, construction, etc. that affect all phases of education and government.

At the time of the one mill levy the tax revenues were sufficient for the program envisioned, but it is not adequate today. In the future increased valuation of the school district itself and increased state aid should compensate for rising costs.

Those opposed say:

1. The college says it can levy at least 45 mills without a vote of the people. With a curtailment in enrollment and expenditures it should be able to remain self sufficient at this time if necessary the tuition could be raised to provide the needed funds.

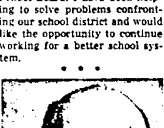
2. Real estate taxes are already too high, creating too great a burden on the property owner. With increased valuation of the school district and increased equalization factors on property, enough money should be available for the college.

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Behind every real success in this life lies good management and superior judgment.

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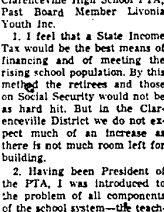
1. State and Federal Aid to Education are bound to increase but insufficiently to affect property taxes. The proposed State Income Tax at best will stop property taxes from rising but certainly will not diminish the need for any taxes now in effect. Realistically, the community has to bear the brunt of its school costs.

2. I am a college educator, research scientist, homemaker, father of school age children, and for the last four years have served on the Clarenceville School Board. I have been helping to solve problems confronting our school district and would like the opportunity to continue working for a better school system.



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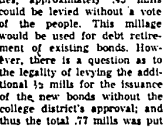
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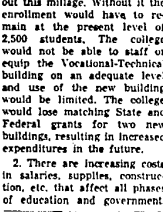
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