

# Farmington Observer

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## Irate taxpayers seek to recall state senator

By Steve Barnaby  
editor

Some Oakland County residents who are displeased with the voting record of their state senator have organized a recall petition drive in an attempt to remove him from office.

The group's target is state Sen. Doug Ross, D-Southfield, who recently voted to support the property-tax-relief plan which will be on the May 19 state ballot.

The discontented, 15th-senate-district residents are unhappy because Ross voted against putting on the ballot a tax-relief plan endorsed by Shiawassee County drain commissioner Robert Tisch.

"After the state-Senate vote, we didn't feel he was representing his constituents," says recall spokesman Robert Tomczyk.

"When he voted against Tisch, we examined his voting record and found it atrocious," said the Millford resident.

The recall group is a spin-off of Citizens Urging Rollback of Taxes (CURB). Before last month's legislative vote, Ross met with CURB members. Tomczyk says Ross assured the group he would vote for neither the Tisch or Milliken proposals. Ultimately, Ross did vote for the Milliken plan.

But Ross counters the criticism by saying that, between the time of the CURB meeting and the senate vote, circumstances had changed regarding

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the Milliken proposal.

ADDED TO the proposal was a 6 percent cap on local spending.

With that addition, Ross felt he could support the proposal.

"The idea was to get something on the ballot which would pass," says Ross. "But I think Tisch is more interested in keeping the issue alive than getting tax relief."

Under state law, the recall group has 90 days to gather signatures. To force an election, it would have to gather 24,242 signatures. The group plans to launch its campaign shortly after the Easter holidays, according to Tomczyk.

Tomczyk says those involved in the recall are pessimistic over the effects the Milliken proposal would have on Michigan taxpayers.

"We don't believe it is a tax cut in the long run," he says. "There is no guarantee that the budget will be cut."

Tax proposal advocates maintain the state would be required to cut approximately \$250 million from its budget. Property taxes would be cut by 50 percent and the sales tax would be increased to 5.5 percent. Presently, the sales tax is 4 percent.

Revenue growth would be limited to 6 percent annually. Tax bills would be discounted to provide no more than 6 percent growth in revenue, excluding new and improved properties.

Ross stands by his support of the Milliken proposal.

"We just can't allow the summer tax bills to go out without some sort of ac-

tion," he says.

ROSS, WHOSE TERM ends in November 1982, says he is unafraid of a recall election, saying the recall proponents are a minority who are upset because their proposal won't be on the ballot.

"Things didn't work out the way they wanted them," he said, adding that those advocating a recall really weren't interested in democracy, but rather they wanted to dictate votes.

If successful in obtaining a recall election, Tomczyk's group will examine the candidates and decide who to endorse.

"But right now we don't have a candidate in mind to run against Ross," says Tomczyk.

## Media legend revels in recording history



Lindbergh's motorcycle is one of Osgood's favorite pieces at Henry Ford Museum.

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

Dick Osgood turned the page this week on another in a long line of careers.

The almost 80-year-old broadcaster (his birthday is April 18), who lives in Farmington Hills, recorded his 500th radio featurette at Henry Ford Museum on Tuesday.

Osgood's voice, sounding as rich and resonant as during his 36 years at WXYZ radio, enthusiastically dramatized its way through four separate vignettes without a single mistake in 15 minutes of storytelling.

He moved from Tom Thumb's courtship and 1863 marriage to a family of goldsmiths who created the first silver trophy to the Earl of Sandwich, and finally, an obscure story about Henry Ford and a Port Huron car race, circa 1904.

Like the hundreds of spots recorded since Osgood began in 1971, the featurettes will be distributed as public service announcements to hundreds of radio stations across the country.

Each trivia bit is wrapped around one of the hundreds of thousands of items stored at Henry Ford Museum or Greenfield Village.

Osgood has spent the last decade wandering around the complex's 260

acres, picking out things for stories he himself writes, researching each piece at the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection or at the Farmington Hills Public Library.

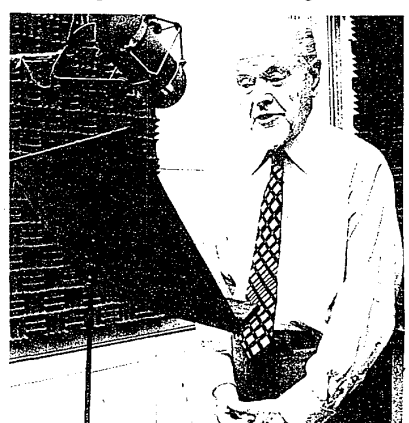
"I'VE LEARNED so much about U.S. history," Osgood said. "Things that surprised me. There are three centuries of history stored here."

One of his favorite things at the museum is Charles Lindbergh's motorcycle. Researching that vehicle revealed Lindbergh's offbeat nature. Osgood was delighted and called the featurette "Daredevil Charles Lindbergh."

"The world hasn't changed that much," Osgood concluded of his research into the people behind the things.

Even the museum staff has learned a good deal about the collection from Osgood's featurettes.

Osgood started the museum broadcasts shortly after his retirement from WXYZ radio in February 1971. There for three and a half decades, he played dramatic roles, reviewed movies, read news and did scraps of interviews with such personalities as Irving Berlin, Lucille Ball, the Andrews Sisters, Ozzie Nelson, Red Skelton and Joan Crawford.



Osgood records his 500th radio featurette at Henry Ford Museum.

## Novi official, 2 incumbents make bid for board

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

A Novi school administrator is challenging two incumbents for seats on the Farmington Board of Education.

Dr. Helen Dilhazy, an administrative assistant in charge of instruction, is running against board veterans Emma Makinen and Richard Wallace.

Two four-year terms are up for grabs in the June 8 election in which voters also will decide a county wide millage hike request for special education programs.

The three candidates have until 4 p.m. today to withdraw from the race. But all three interviewed this week said they were committed to run.

Mrs. Dilhazy, a Farmington Hills resident for 15 years, is making her first bid for public office.

For five years, some of the people in my subdivision have suggested that I

do this, but I've always been involved in something else," she said.

"This is the first time I really have the time."

A resident of Meadowbrook Hills subdivision, the Dilhazys have been host family to 18 foreign exchange students attending Farmington High School over the years.

BOTH INCUMBENTS were uncertain of running again when queried by the Observer last month.

"I just changed my mind," said Wallace, a four-year veteran.

"If I'm re-elected, I'm ready for another four years."

Wallace has served on various board committees and has a background in municipal finance. He is an assistant vice president of the National Bank of Detroit.

Mrs. Makinen said an assessment of the situation made her change her

mind about running again.

"I'm interested in maintaining a quality education system that meets the needs of all students," she said.

"The uncertain financial picture facing the district and the continued decline of enrollment make that an especially difficult challenge to meet, but one I feel can be done with cooperation of staff, community and the board of education."

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Emma Makinen



Richard Wallace



Helen Dilhazy

supported by Farmington administrators.

"Given the reduction of state aid and the current financial outlook, it's un-

likely that there will be any financial rescue for special education in the immediate future," said Lewis Schulman, superintendent.

"Competition for funds is a counterproductive exercise that pits one element of our school community against another without good cause."

## Declining enrollment forces teacher layoffs

By Mary Rodrigue  
staff writer

The Farmington school district will shrink by 19 teaching positions next September because of declining enrollment and the closing of Alameda elementary school in June.

Because of the district's notification system, 182 of the 452 teachers working in the district — some with seniority dating back to September, 1959 — will receive layoff notices.

The list is made according to seniority and many of those instructors will return next September in different slots.

"We've been doing this since 1973 in order to maintain instruction according to certification," said Lewis Schulman, school superintendent.

"This system gives freedom for transfers and allows to accommodate people properly."

Nine elementary positions are being eliminated, two in the middle schools and eight in the high schools. Five teachers still remain on layoff from last year.

Recalls won't occur until after the May 19 tax cut election which could have repercussions on the school budget, 85 percent of which is salaries.

Personnel Director Robert Coleman wouldn't venture a guess on the number of teachers who won't be returning next year.

"The net effect is unknown," Coleman said. "It depends on vacancies that have reopened, teachers returning from leave of absence."

FARMINGTON EDUCATION Association President Tom Chryzanowski guesses between 20 and 30 teachers

will be laid off in September.

"But it's so speculative, it's difficult to say," he said.

Five administrative positions are also being eliminated — one principal (from Alameda), three high school administrative assistants, and one in the

federally funded global education program.

Coleman hopes to recall three ad-

ministrative assistants in the high schools if funding is secured for those jobs.

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