oters ponder decision on Proposal A ballot

New Detroit Inc. backs it, contending
"it will provide significant property tax
relief to homeowners in a mildly progressive manner."

Many statewide groups support it
the Farm Bureau, Municipal League,
United Aut Warten, Michigan Argoit

United Auto Workers, Michigan Associ-ation of School Boards, State Board of

Education, Presidents Council of State Colleges and Universities, Michigan Road Builders Association and the As-sociationn of Independent Colleges and Universities

LOCAL GOVERNMENT officials, however, break rank with their state associations.

The Oakland County Associationn of

School Superintendents opposes Pro-posal A as "harmful to public educa-tion." Many K-12 districts agree. One major school criticism is that

One major scool criticism is that property fax revenues are capped at 6 percent at a time when consumer price inflation is at .12 percent and property values are rising even faster. They wonder if local revenues will keep pace with bell-disk.

wonder if local revenues will keep pace with inflation.

They fear they will have to go to an angry voting public in fall with requests for millage increases or waivers of the 6 percent cap — and they're less

than confident the voters will listen sympathetically. Politically, there is no question that Proposal A backers acted because they fear another property tar cut plan by Shiawassee County Drain Commissioner Robert Tilsch might be worse. Tisch III, defeated in 1889, would have cut 11, deteated in 1980, would have cut taxes \$2 billion vs. Proposal A's \$250 million

But as Oakland Community College President Robert F. Roelofs put it, "Nothing will stop Mr. Tisch."

THE BIGGEST guns against Proposal A, however, are not local schools but
business groups, many in building and
real estate. Realtors in the past have
been Tisch's most fervent supporters.
The Apartment Association of
Michigan opposes A as 'a poor attempt
at tar reform that offers no relief to
apartment dwellers or owners. ...
addition, the 5.5 percent sales tax
would boost all apartment owners'
ing. appliances, repairs and maintenance would likely be passed onto resi-

dents in the form of higher rents."
The Builders Association of
Southeastern Michigan opposed it because, as President Dave Pink sald,
"This so-called tax-cut measure would
have a devastating effect on an already-troubled housing industry...
Furthermore, the proposed 1:5 percent
sales-tax increase would add at least
\$500 to even the lowest priced home."

THE SALES tax as a partial substi-tute for lost property taxes draws a share of the fire.

how tax cut plan looks on ballot

Here is the official ballot text of Proposal A as it will appear in the May 19 state-wide special election.

PROPOSAL A

Proposal to reduce properly taxes, reduce city income taxes, limit growth of property tax revenues, return additional sales tax to local governments and schools and give state lottery profits to school aid fund.

The proposed amendment would:

1. Reduce by 50 percent homestead property taxes used for operating schools and local governments. Reduction limited to \$1,400 in 1981 and changed yearly as home values change.

2. Reduce by 50 percent local individual income taxes on first \$40,000 of taxable income.

3. Make state return to local governments all funds lost by

above reductions. Limit yearly property tax revenue growth to 6 percent by

property type unless raised by local voters.

5. Raise sales tax from 4 percent to 5.5 percent. Raise must be returned to local governments and schools.

Let farms and forests be assessed at use value.

7. Give state lottery profits to school aid fund.

Should this amendment be adopted?



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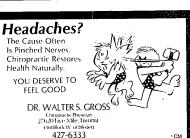
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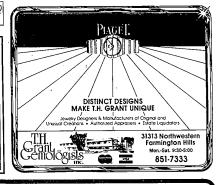
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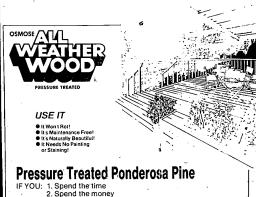
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