

# Assessors meet to fight state's hike in valuations

By Suzie Rollins Singer  
staff writer

Oakland County assessors will meet today to determine how or if they will spread a 5.99 percent valuation hike imposed by the State Equalization Board.

At a Lansing hearing Monday, the board acted on the recommendation of the State Tax Commission to raise residential property taxes by nearly 6 percent, said Herman Stephens, Oakland equalization manager.

"We presented our facts again, and we were denied," Stephens said.

ON BEHALF of Oakland County residents, Stephens and three county commissioners argued that the state's method of assessing all of its 83 counties on a 30- or 12-month market study (whichever is lower) of housing sale prices is unfair.

The state's 30-month study covers all of 1979, all of 1980 and the first six months of 1981. The 12-month covers 1981.

This year, because of Michigan's slumping housing market, Oakland County opposed increased valuations based on state guidelines that use either 30 months of property sales or 12 months.

Instead, Oakland used sales in the last three months of 1981 to determine valuations.

The imposed hike would mean that many residents will be assessed more than 50 percent of their property's true market value, a violation of the state constitution.

"I WOULD advise anyone whose property assessment will be over 50 percent of market value to write a letter to the Michigan Tax Tribunal (in Lansing)," Stephens said.

Stephens said the county will appeal to the Michigan Court of Appeals.

At today's meeting, local assessors will determine whether they must collect the increase from residents.

"They (municipal assessors) might collect the money and rebate it if we win in the Court of Appeals," Stephens said.

"If they don't collect it, how can they rebate it if that's the order?"

## roll call report

Here's how area members of Congress were recorded on major roll call votes May 13-19.

### HOUSE

**NASA BUDGET CUTS** — By a vote of 169 for and 304 against, the House rejected an amendment to cut \$34.4 million from the aeronautics portion of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) fiscal 1983 budget. The money had been added by the House Science and Technology Committee despite objections from the administration and its allies on the committee. The House later passed and sent to the Senate a \$6.65 billion NASA authorization bill (HR 5690) that included the additional aeronautics funding.

Rep. Larry Winn, R-Kan., sponsor of

the amendment, said, "The real issue here is whether the House has the will to make the budget cuts necessary to reduce the size of our budget deficit."

Opponent Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio, said cutting the NASA budget would "deprive us of our leadership over the Soviet Union in research and development technology, and thus compromise our national defense."

Members voting "nay" favored spending \$34.4 million more for NASA aeronautical programs than the administration had requested.

Rep. William Broomfield, R-Birmingham voted "yea."

Reps. Carl Pursell, R-Plymouth; David Bonior, D-Mount Clemens; William Ford, D-Taylor; William Brodhead, D-Detroit; and James Blanchard, D-Pleasant Ridge, voted "nay."

**SPENDING FOR INTELLIGENCE** — The House passed, 357 for and 23 against, a bill (HR 6068) authorizing money for the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, FBI intelligence activities and the covert operations of several other agencies in fiscal 1983. The price tag was classified and kept secret from the public, although floor debate revealed President Reagan sought a "substantial increase" over 1982 outlays. The bill was sent to the Senate.

Supporter Edward Boland, D-Mass., defended the secrecy, saying that while disclosing a single budget figure "might not itself be harmful... intelligence is inherently secret, and any disclosure is the beginning of an erosive process."

Opponent Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., said "the American people have a constitutional right to know" the overall price tag, and that the total secrecy is "an outrageous affront to the democratic principles of our country and should not and must not be tolerated."

Members voting "yea" supported the bill.

Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead, Blanchard and Broomfield voted "yea."

**BUDGET CUTS** — The House adopted, 194 for and 191 against, an amendment cutting \$30 million from the National Science Foundation outlay for upgrading the quality of science and engineering education in the U.S. This was consistent with the administration's budget request, but it nullified previous action by the House Science and Technology Committee to raise the outlay from \$15 million to \$45 million in fiscal 1983.

Supporter Larry Winn, R-Kan., said the committee add-on of \$30 million was the "all too common" approach of attacking a problem by throwing more money at it.

Opponent Doug Walgren, D-Pa., said one has "a great shudder for the future of his country" upon comparing Soviet and U.S. spending on science and math education.

Members voting "nay" wanted to spend \$30 million more in fiscal 1983 on science and engineering education.

Broomfield voted "yea." Pursell, Bonior, Ford, Brodhead and Blanchard voted "nay."

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