

Mayor opposes school finance plans

Fellow Farmington Hills City Council members Monday gave no support to Mayor Terry Sever's request to oppose both state school finance proposals on the Nov. 7 ballot.

"This is something that strictly belongs in the school board area," said councilman Aldo Vagnozzi. "We shouldn't get involved in their affairs just like they shouldn't get involved in ours."

Proposal A would increase the sales/use tax from 4 cents to 4.5 cents per dollar and constitutionally designate money for local schools.

Proposal B would increase the sales/use tax from 4 cents to 6 cents per dollar, reduce school property

taxes, set permanent school operating millages not subject to voter renewal, and constitutionally dedicate money for local schools.

In a statement to fellow council members Oct. 9, Sever said he heard arguments about both proposals at a recent Michigan Municipal League conference in Marquette.

SEVER CALLED Proposal A "an increase in taxes without addressing property tax relief." He said Proposal B "is an unfair tax to commercial, office and industrial, asking them to pay 45 percent more than residential."

"The two proposals coming forward, neither one had enough sup-

port in Lansing to get the necessary votes to make them law and that, in itself, tells me that neither plan is fair to everyone," he said. "And our state Legislature should develop a plan that is fair for everyone."

"I'm concerned about the impact it will have on the community," Sever added that the proposals would hurt Farmington Hills.

"Our school system in Farmington Hills would become more dependent on state funding and ultimately lose control in the future," he said. "We should help fix other school districts, not at the expense of jeopardizing our own quality education program in Farmington Hills."

On Oct. 9, councilwoman Jean Fox

concurrent with Sever. Neither proposal, she said, is "in the best interests of the community."

This past Monday, councilman Ben Marks said he was against both proposals, but agreed the council should not take any action.

"We have to be careful about getting involved with their (school board) issues," Vagnozzi said. "We want to make sure we don't make any decisions that could hurt Farmington in the long run."

"Proposal B might have some tax relief," he said. "It may not be a solution, but it might be a partial help," particularly, he said, for the elderly, the widowed and those on a fixed income.

C'ville board urges support for tax plans

By Mario Chesnoy staff writer

In the hopes that one will pass, Clarenceville school officials last Thursday urged a yes vote on both state school tax proposals that will appear on the Nov. 7 ballot.

School board members said they backed both Proposal A and Proposal B.

"There's lots to be said about both," said superintendent Jerry Montecello. "If they benefit the en-

tire state, then they're good for our school district. We should vote yes on both."

The district includes parts of Livonia, Redford and Farmington Hills.

PROPOSAL A raises the state sales tax one-half cent, from 4 cents to 4.5 cents.

The state would distribute the money generated by the tax increase to local school districts. The proposal would not affect local property taxes.

Proposal B raises the state sales tax two cents, from 4 cents to 6 cents.

It would reduce school property taxes, set permanent school operating tax rates not subject to voter renewal and required that the money be given to local school districts.

IF BOTH proposals pass, the one with the higher number of votes would take effect. Trustee Michael Manore said one

big plus of both proposals is that money received by the state from the boost in the sales tax could only be spent for education.

"It's not like the lottery, where they get the money and then took an equal amount of money (destined for education) from the general fund," Manore said. "We ended up getting not one dollar more for education."

Livonia Public Schools strongly condemned Proposal B and stopped short of recommending that residents vote for Proposal A.


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