

Young Republicans warm to 'Citizens tax limitation'

By Tim Richard
staff writer

The state Legislature would have to give a bigger piece of the budget pie to public schools, and property owners would get a hefty tax cut if voters approve the Patterson-Anderson "Citizens Tax Limitation" amendment.

"The combination — high taxes and poor public education — has frustrated our citizens," economist Patrick Anderson, one of the amendment's authors, told Oakland County Young Republicans Monday.

Many YR members promised to circulate petitions to get 300,000 signatures to put the proposed constitutional amendment on the 1990 state ballot.

Anderson, an assistant vice president of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co. of Farmington Hills, is a close associate of Richard Headlee, who led the 1978 tax limitation amendment drive.

Brooks Patterson is former Oakland County prosecutor and "deserves the credit for bringing people together," Anderson said. Petition forms are available from: Patterson-Anderson Proposal Committee, P.O. Box 4721, Troy 48069-9992.

MOST OF THE state's 563 school districts would see budget increases under their amendment, Anderson said. And property owners in 400 school districts would get tax cuts.

Here is how it would work: • In 1991, school operating taxes, which average 33 mills, would be cut to 30 mills and capped there. The gross property tax cut would be \$600 million minus \$75 million in lost "circuit breaker" income tax rebates. (Those rebates currently go to households whose property taxes exceed 3.5 percent of income.)

• The Legislature would be required to add \$750 million into K-12 school aid, more than making up for the property tax cuts. That amount is about 10 percent of the entire estimated 1990-91 general fund budget of \$7 billion.

• Every school would receive at least \$4,190 per pupil — the equivalent of 28 mills in property taxes — narrowing the gap between rich and poor districts. School districts levying less than 28 mills would receive a pro-rated share of \$4,180 per pupil.

• Property assessments, rising in many suburban areas at 15 percent or more a year, would be capped at

the rate of consumer price inflation — about 5 percent a year.

TO ANDERSON, it would be easy for the Legislature to place 10 percent more of the \$7 billion state budget into schools.

"The state has cut its contribution to local schools from 45 to 32 percent of their budgets since 1978," he said, echoing the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce's plea for "new priorities, not new taxes."

Some \$75 million of the money would come from property tax rebates that would no longer have to be sent out with income tax refunds, he said.

A major share could come from the so-called "supplemental" budget of \$500 million, which Gov. James Blanchard customarily introduces in mid-year.

In an interview, Anderson conceded the Legislature may opt to end the entire \$500 million program of property tax rebates, and it might not be a bad idea.

"The circuit breaker has functioned as an incentive to raise property taxes," he said.

Michigan politicians often ask tax increases for schools, then divert the

'The combination — high taxes and poor public education — has frustrated our citizens.'

— Patrick Anderson
economist

money to social services.

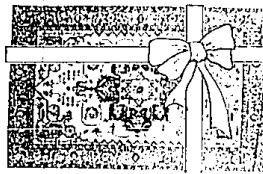
"When's the last time you heard a legislator say 'we need a tax increase for welfare?'" Anderson said.

"MICHIGAN HAS the fourth highest state-local tax burden in the country. You hear (from Blanchard) that we have to 'be competitive' with Korea, Taiwan and Japan. We've gotta be competitive with Tennessee, too. The way to do that is cut taxes," Anderson said.

Detroit and Pontiac, in particular, would benefit from tax cuts because of their high per-family tax burdens.

"Detroit has a huge number of empty lots and empty houses that people don't pay taxes on," he said.

Deck Your Home With an Oriental Rug from Hagopian



Save 40% on every rug* 6x9 or smaller

Now thru December 24th

The Original Since 1929
HAGOPIAN
WORLD OF RUGS
1835 S. Woodward
north of 14 Mile
call 626-RUGS
*excludes gallery collection
Don't forget our bargain hunter's paradise... Hagopian Rug Outlet in Oak Park

The Time Shop
of Farmington Hills
CLOCK REPAIR
We Repair:
• Music Boxes
• Cuckoo Clocks
• Wall Clocks
• Grandfather Clocks
(Road Service Available)
• Watch Repair
737-2455

Sale Spode
CHRISTMAS TREE

LARGE STOCK COMPLETE SELECTION OF PIECES WE SHIP TO U.S.A.
Mary's CHINA SHOP
DOWNTOWN STORE OPEN SUNDAY 12-5
WINDSOR (Downtown) • 122 CHATHAM ST.
DETROIT: CALL 982-5241
Daily 9:30 - 6:00 Sat. 9:30 - 5:30
WINDSOR • 3310 DOUGLAS RD.
MON. TUES. WED. & THURS. 9:30 SAT. 10:30

AMERICAN SPOON FOODS
Potoskey, Michigan

DECEMBER 7 - DECEMBER 20
SPECIAL FOOD GIFTS from
NORTHERN MICHIGAN'S ORCHARDS, FIELDS & FORESTS
A Welcomed Gift Anytime
Extended Holiday Hours:
Sunday 12-5 / Monday-Friday 10-9 / Saturday 10-6
Saks Fifth Avenue Open All Saturdays 10-9 & Sunday 11-6
SOMERSET MALL
W. Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy

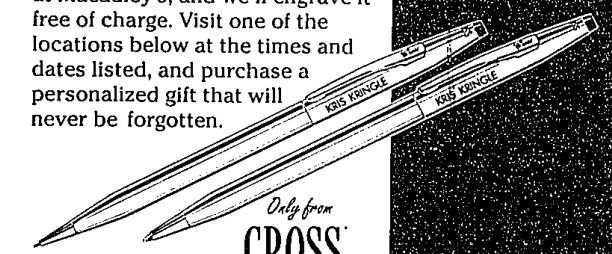
Men, if you're about to turn 18, it's time to register with Selective Service at any U.S. Post Office. It's quick. It's easy. And it's the law.

1/2 Off
OUR ALREADY DISCOUNTED PRICES



For that special gift, choose a Cross pen, or pen and pencil set at Macauley's, and we'll engrave it free of charge. Visit one of the locations below at the times and dates listed, and purchase a personalized gift that will never be forgotten.

CROSS
pens engraved Free at Macauley's



OFFER GOOD:
Monday, December 18 • 10-2 Southfield/Lathrup - Southfield at 12 Mile
Tuesday, December 19 • 10-2 Troy Commons - Big Beaver at Rochester Road
Wednesday, December 20 • 10-2 Wandafield Mall

MACAULEY'S
Office products for more than just the office

THURS. DEC. 14 ONLY!	Entire Stock of Shaker SWEATERS	50% OFF
FRI. DEC. 15 ONLY!	Entire Stock of Patterned Vests & Patterned Pants	50% OFF
SAT. DEC. 16 ONLY!	Famous Maker SWEATERS	50% OFF
SUN. DEC. 17 ONLY!	Entire Stock of FALL SUITS	50% OFF

DRESS BARN
NOBODY SELLS FASHION FOR LESS!
NEW! Dress Barn WOMAN for Sizes 14W-24W
LOCATED IN OUR FARMINGTON HILLS STORE
SPECIALS NOT GOOD WITH ANY OTHER DISCOUNTS
NO SALE EVER FINAL. OPEN 7 DAYS, 8 NIGHTS. MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED