

Tax for schools

The Feb. 5 special election for two millage increases is designed to offset the loss of \$5.8 million taken through state legislation. Passage of the second proposal is contingent on passage of the first. Property owners of a \$100,000 home with a State Equalized Value of \$50,000 would pay an additional \$135 a year if the first proposal is passed - \$185 if both are approved. The language of the proposals is shown below.

Proposition 1

Shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed on all property in the Farmington Public School District be increased for a period of ten years, beginning July 1, 1991, by two and seven tenths (2.7) mills on each dollar (\$2.70 per \$1,000) of state equalized valuation to be used for defraying a portion of the operating expenses of the school district?

Proposition 2

In the event proposition 1, above on this ballot, is approved at this election by a majority of the votes cast on proposition 1, then in addition to the millage increase approved in proposition 1, shall the limitation on the total amount of taxes which may be imposed on all property in the Farmington Public School District be increased for a period of ten years, beginning July 1, 1991, by 1.0 mill on each dollar (\$1.00 per \$1,000) of state equalized valuation for the purpose of renovating, expanding and repairing existing buildings in the school district?

Source: Farmington Public Schools

Parents group backs tax plan

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for my kids," Luckschelter said. "I don't want to see any decreases. I don't want to see us lose anything. I want to see us gain," Feldman added.

Each of the district's 24 schools has about 10 parents involved in organizing the millage effort at the building level and spreading the word. Two private preschools in the area have also called to offer their support. In addition to the phone bank and informational mailings, parents are also meeting with people through various church and community groups.

Buttons with the slogan "Yes+Yes=Success" on a school blackboard and reminding voters to "Vote Feb. 5" are being made by students at the Farmington Training Center and sold as a fund raiser for the group. The button materials and labor costs are being paid by the pro-millage group.

On election day, the Friends of Farmington Schools members will be at school polling places passing out literature outside precincts, and registered election "challengers"

will be inside monitoring the poll book and election count.

Phone banks will also likely be used, organizers said.

THE FRIENDS group is collecting enough money to pay for the necessary postage, mailings and other expenses, organizers said.

In addition to helping with this week's phone bank, members of the MEA began making calls last week during off-duty hours to retired MEA members and others who don't work in Farmington but live here. The MEA represents teachers, school bus drivers and cafeteria and maintenance workers for the Farmington district.

Meanwhile, the parents say recent ads opposing the millage run by Farmington Hills Insurance executive and tax cut guru Richard Headlee have actually helped their effort in some cases. Parents are realizing they need to get involved if the millage is to pass, Feldman said. "It created the need."

"We're not letting it bother us," Luckschelter added. "We're proceeding as planned."

clarification

A recent Observer article should have said two millage proposals facing voters on Feb. 5 should be for 10 years each. The owner of a \$100,000 house would pay between \$135 and \$185 per year in additional property

taxes, depending on whether one or both passes. Proposition 1 for 2.7 mills would bring the district about \$6.75 million per year for operations, and Proposition 2 for one mill a total of \$2.5 million per year for capital projects.



SHARON LAMIEUX/staff photographer

Phone banks began this week at the Michigan Education Association offices in Farmington Hills, with members of the Friends of Farmington Schools group prompting voters to get out

and vote "yes" on Feb. 5. Here, Chuck Dickey, Mark Lukasik, Debbie Lukasik, Tom Tobe and Connie Dickey work the phones.

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