

Tax petition drives organized, here's how to join

By Tim Richard
staff writer

Three groups are organizing petition drives to put tax questions on the 1992 Michigan ballot.

One would cut property taxes and raise the sales tax rate 2.5 percent to 6.5 percent. The other pair would limit property assessment growth to 2 percent a year and limit the tenure of U.S. congressmen and state legislators.

Meanwhile, the state Legislature has put a proposal on the 1992 ballot to limit property assessment growth at 5 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less.

Still unknown is the fate of Headlee II, the Taxpayers United proposal to cut assessments 20 percent over two years. The state Board of Canvassers last week failed to certify it for consideration by the Legislature and voters. TU chair Richard Headlee of Farmington

Hills said the next step is the state Court of Appeals.

Here is a rundown of the new petition drives.

SALES TAX SHIFT

Committee name: Fair Share School Financing Committee, 304 S. State, Ann Arbor 48104.

Principals: George W. Salade, Democrat of Ann Arbor, former state representative; Roy Smith, Republican of Ypsilanti, former representative, now Washtenaw County commissioner; Fred Veigel, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. IBEW paid for the petitions.

Proposal: Amend state constitution to increase sales tax rate by 2.5 percent; require state to refund 85 percent of property taxes on homesteads and resident farms (up to \$10,000 per home, \$12,000 per resident farm); give a 100 percent refund of school operating taxes for

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persons 62 or older; provide proportional refunds for renters.

Unaffected: Circuit breaker: rebates of 100 percent for persons over 65 would continue; no break for commercial, industrial, personal and mining property.

"Our news release made a big hit," said Feigel, IBEW's assistant business manager in Ypsilanti. "We

got many calls from southwestern Michigan, farmers around Grand Rapids and the Upper Peninsula."

Impact: \$2 billion in new state revenue under the sales tax increase would be earmarked for property tax reduction.

How to join: Call George Salade (pronounced Sal-a-day) at 662-1218 or Roy Smith at 434-9347.

TERMS, ASSESSMENTS

Committees working together: Committee to Limit Politicians' Terms, Committee to Lower and Limit Taxes, headquartered locally at 3309 Rochester Road, Royal Oak 48073.

Principals: Dick Jacobs, of Taxpayers Association of Michigan, Holland; Tim Purdy and Tish Berkey in Royal Oak; Mike Pray in Saginaw area. Affiliated groups are the Oakland County Taxpayers Association, Citizens for a Better Northville, and Justice Pro Se of Dearborn. A former Libertarian candidate, Jacobs said the Libertarian Party has not taken a position yet.

Term limitation proposal: three terms for state representative, two terms for state senator, two terms for each executive office branch (governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general); three terms during a 12-year period for U.S. representative, two terms

in 24-year period for U.S. senator.

Impact: "Fed up with career politicians? Put citizens' bags of change," according to the literature, Jacobs said Colorado has such a state constitutional amendment. Incumbent congressmen, in particular, are sure to oppose this one, he said. Michiganans could never accumulate enough seniority to gain powerful committee chairs.

Tax proposal: No new taxes or increases without voter approval; a 20 percent property tax refund from the state; no assessment increases beyond 2 percent; inheritance tax prohibited.

Impact: Property taxes would grow slower than inflation. Unlike the Headlee and Gov. John Engler proposals, local units would not be reimbursed for their \$1.5 billion loss of revenue.

How to join: Call Tim Purdy or Tish Berkey at the Royal Oak office, 545-6776.

County holds low-cost dog licensing Sunday

The Oakland County Animal Care Center will hold its annual low cost vaccination and licensing clinic, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, May 19.

Owners can have their dogs vaccinated against rabies for \$7 and obtain the required 1991 license. Licensing is \$5.50 if the pet is neutered and \$8.50 if it is not.

After June 1, delinquent license

fees are \$20. Also on that date, county officials bring a door-to-door dog census and will ticket the owners for animals who aren't licensed.

The animal care center is at 1700 Brown Road, one mile west of Lapeer Road which is just north of the Palace of Auburn Hills.

Additional information is available at 391-4100.

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