

Local senators pledge to defend school funds

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Suburban lawmakers will be fighting outside retaliation in the wake of Proposal A's defeat June 2.

"They'll have to make out-of-state attacks on 'categorical' aid to suburban school districts. They may have to consider raising sales tax revenue by broadening the base — that is, taxing more items."

And it may well may pit metro area Republicans against outstate Democrats.

"It's going to put on my battle belt and do anything I can to fight them," said Sen. Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham.

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Prop A backers lash out at metropolitan area

By Tim Richard
Staff Writer

Questions you might ask about the defeat Wednesday of Proposal A, the plan to replace \$2 billion in school property taxes with a state tax increase.

Q: How do Gov. John Engler really feel about this, his second defeat on a property tax cut?

A: Engler is smart enough to remain silent on the issue, but the western state politicians around him are fuming at Detroit.

House GOP co-sponsor Paul Hildgens of Midland: "Tonight the state sort of divided in two. It's like two separate states in how they view the world."

Gubernatorial press agent John Truescott: "It's really a shame when we can carry 70 counties and have one area decide the fate of the whole state."

Senate majority leader Dick Posthumus: "They (who voted no) benefited from the 'no' vote."

Grand Rapids Press news headline: "Area voters endorse proposal but can't oust Detroit bid."

Engler: "The metro area has higher level of education. There's less sense of community with the rest of the state. When we vote on the 'no' vote, we were leading."

Q: Is that view of "Detroit" justified?

A: No. There were four clear pockets of opposition to Proposal A.

Oakland, Macomb and suburban Wayne counties. Even though school boards endorsed A, taxpayers would have received little property tax relief and the displacement of their higher sales tax money outside.

Four large outstate counties — Washtenaw, Ingham, Jackson and Bay City. The latter three on the 10th ballot.

Upper Peninsula counties across Marquette.

Q: Why would Detroit, so much to gain, vote no?

A: Sen. Fred Dillingham, R-Foxfield, supported A but wanted the GOP leadership for eliminating Detroit by recalling the Cobo Hall referendum bill from Engler's desk after the Legislature passed it.

The Cobo Hall bill had a major flaw: what they did in Detroit. The issue was trust. Detroiters would have to trust Engler's deal after the Legislature passed it.

Q: What will happen now?

A: A reporter put it best: "No-

his blood is back, and he's making them pop, or something like that."

Q: Meaning?

A: Engler and legislators who supported tax base shifting will take away every state dollar sub-formula suburban school boards supported A — they forced the wrath of Engler, Sen. Dan DeWine, R-Fort Henry, and Rep. James O'Neill, D-Saginaw, on legislators.

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plan aims at cutting the dollar amounts of property tax bills, not tinkering with assessments or millage rates.

Reaction from his suburban supporters: "The state is taking away every state dollar sub-formula suburban school boards supported A — they forced the wrath of Engler, Sen. Dan DeWine, R-Fort Henry, and Rep. James O'Neill, D-Saginaw, on legislators."

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First Prize Day

Belle Isle attracts fans of all ages.

Headlines from the press are expected to view the Grand Prix race on Sunday.

Race fans range in age and social backgrounds, from high-powered businessmen and women to fathers and sons living memories of past generations of racing legends. The attraction of Indy car racing seems to stem from inside race fans and isn't definable by gender, race or social status, commented McCabe.

"The diversity of the audience plays a major role in the success of racing," McCabe hopes to travel from fans from Chicago and Indiana. McCabe is not a fan favorite in his own country.

Indy car race. Race officials insisted volunteers in rescuing the bewildered spectators.

Athletes who drive

Athletes come in many shapes and sizes, yet constant violators of physically superior "superbeing" machine drivers. They're the limits seem to please the minds of most athletes. This tendency has led to the exclusion of many drivers from the Indy 500.

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