

Why Votes Changed On City Aid Bill

By KATHY MORAN

State-revenue sharing was billed as a means of giving more aid to Michigan cities—but the final product isn't much help to Oberveland's suburban communities.

Under the plan that cleared the State Legislature the day before it recessed, Michigan cities will be given state aid based on a formula comparing local tax effort with the state average.

Local governments get more aid if they have a high "local tax effort." The first version of the bill, opposed by many suburban legislators, counted only city or township taxes.

The final version, however, in the first year will consider municipal, state and county taxes as well as special assessments; and unless the law is changed next year, school operating millages will be computed in 1972-73. This version is considered better for the suburbs, where school taxes are often high.

revenue-sharing plan, some Oberveland communities will not get as much state aid this year as they would have under the old formula. Last year, percentages of the total taxables, sales and income taxes were distributed to units of government based on population.

The only figures released from the State Budget Division on state aid are on cities and villages. Figures for aid to townships are not available yet and comparative figures from last year's state aid were not immediately available.

Tentative per capita figures include Farmington, \$18.16; Quakertown, \$16.50; Wood Creek Farms Village, \$16.50; Southfield \$17.85; Beverly Hills Village \$17.33; Bingham Farms Village, \$16.50; Franklin Village, \$16.79; Garden City \$21.06; Livonia \$19.64; Plymouth, \$19.64; and Westland, \$18.87.

Oakland County will receive \$4.3 million and Wayne County will get \$12.5 million.

What Suburbs Get

Local Unit	Per Capita Rate	Estimated Income
OAKLAND COUNTY	---	\$ 4,261,819
Farmington (city)	\$18.16	242,200
Quakertown Village	16.50	131,000
Wood Creek Farms Village	16.50	18,000
Southfield (city)	17.85	1,237,400
Beverly Hills Village	17.33	235,700
Bingham Farms Village	16.50	9,300
Franklin Village	16.79	56,100
WAYNE COUNTY	---	12,518,529
Garden City	21.06	881,700
Livonia	19.64	2,162,500
Plymouth	19.64	230,900
Westland	18.87	1,637,000

the same position if they are not given help too."

Faust said he co-sponsored two amendments that would make the plan more equitable. The amendments as adopted would include school operating millages in the tax formula for 1972-73 as part of a city's total "tax burden," and

includes special assessment taxes in this year's formula. The assessments are not included in the first figures released from the state.

"REVENUE SHARING is important," said Cooper, whose district includes part of Southfield. "I would like to

have seen a more equitable way, but I understand we have to make some allowances for the cities.

"Southfield would have done better under the old plan," he added.

"Being a former mayor (of Oak Park), I understand the need in the cities," Forbes said. "Frankly, I think it is about time."

Cities are locked into charters and can't raise taxes to meet growing expenses and inflation, he said.

"It will cost Michigan about \$236 million, but it (the money) goes back to the grass roots," he said. "It was a long time in coming. But I think the best way to help cities is through federal revenue sharing."

STEMPIEN, WHO is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, said that the original form of the bill was "weighted unfairly in favor of the cities like Detroit."

"The version returned from the Senate was more favorable to suburban com-

munities and more equitable," he said explaining the inclusion of special assessments and school millage.

Bennett agreed that the original version was unfair to suburban cities but that the final version "was a lot better."

"The first version was really revenue-stealing-taking money from suburban communities and giving it to large cities," he said. He agreed that the second version was more fair to suburban communities but added that Redford Township "would have gotten quite a bit more if we had the straight per capita formula."

Bennett said Redford will get \$1.2 million this year. This

is \$134,000 over the \$1.08 million they got last year but \$38,000 less than the \$1.25 million the township would have received this year under the old formula.

YOUNG SAID that both Livonia and Westland in his district will receive slightly more under the new formula than they would have last year, adding that it was "well worth the effort" of defeating the bill when it was first considered to get the changes that have been incorporated since.

"The bill is a vast improvement over the original bill," he said. "It is very difficult to have complete equity—the people did a good job in making some of these changes."

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Arlen Defends SC Faculty Stand

Richard Arlen, president of the Schoolcraft College Faculty Forum, says the quiet stand the faculty took on two millage proposals couldn't have influenced one way or another the direction the election took.

The two millage proposals, for a half-mill for general purposes and a half-mill for capital construction, were defeated by 2-1 margins in the Sept. 13 election.

A half-page ad in the Observer Newspapers on Sept. 11 gave the trustee endorsement votes on by the faculty senate, but failed to mention the faculty's position in favor of the millage. A motion passed in April by

the Forum was "in support of the upcoming millage election for the college."

ARLEN SAID the quiet stand was agreed upon because campaigning publicly for funds in which the faculty has a direct interest in through their wages could have hurt more than helped the campaign.

The faculty Forum did send nearly 2,500 letters to members of the Michigan Education Association living in the college district urging "favorable consideration of this millage request."

The newspaper ad was paid for by voluntary contributions, Arlen said.

THOUGH THE endorsements were attributed to the Faculty Forum, the only faculty members to vote on the endorsements were the 20 persons on the Faculty Senate.

Arlen said that the vote of the Senate has the same effect as the vote of U.S. Senate representing the entire country. The Senate is composed of representatives elected by the faculty and their decision reflects the decision of the entire faculty, he said.

He said he has received a minimal amount of negative response from other faculty members who did not agree with the trustee endorsements or the quiet millage position.

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