

ATTITUDES SURVEY

Conducted by the League Of Women Voters in the Livonia Public Schools
What single thing do you like most?

Livonia school district residents apparently like the teachers and educational product of the schools, are worried about taxes, think the district is spending about the right amount of money in most areas, except Special Education, where it is spending too little, believe the schools are run about the way the people want them run, support the building of a vocational-technical school, and overwhelmingly believe local property taxes should be replaced with a state income tax.

Those are the principal conclusions to be drawn from the results of the first Livonia Public Schools Community Attitudes Survey conducted by the League of Women Voters from February 22 through 28.

The League interviewers talked by telephone to 454 Livonia School District residents whose names were selected at random (every 60th name on a list of the district's registered voters was drawn). With such a sample, the results of the survey, according to statistical tables, should be an accurate reflection of community thinking within a range of plus or

minus 5% on any given question. Those interviewed were first asked "What single thing do you like most about the Livonia Public Schools?" The answers most given were: good curriculum (13%), good teachers (12%), programs and personnel meeting needs of individual student (7%), good basic education (6%), and the convenience of having schools nearby (6%). Only 2% said they didn't like anything about the school system. Twenty-three per cent said they didn't know what they liked best. Other areas cited by between 2 and 5% of those interviewed included "like schools in general," "good buildings" and "high educational standards."

Asked "What single thing do you like least about the Livonia school system?" 11% of those responding said high taxes. The second highest ranking answer given by 10% of those responding was "nothing wrong" with the schools. Lack of discipline was cited by 8%. Frills and waste were named by 6%. Other areas cited by at least ten respondents (between 2 and 5%) were "teachers," "half days," "modular scheduling" and

"poor communication with parents."

Asked whether they believe the school district is spending too much, about right, or too little in eight different areas, the overwhelming response was that the district is spending about right in most areas. The only area where most of those answering didn't say spending is about right is in special education programs for slow learners and the handicapped. There, 39% think the district is spending too little, while 36% think spending is about right and only 2% think too

much is being spent. Twenty-two per cent had no opinion.

The district's spending budget for teachers received the highest approval with 70% saying spending in that area is about right.

Areas where at least 20% of those interviewed think too much is being spent include new buildings (36% - too much, 50% - about right, 3% - too little), administrator's salaries (28% - too much, 37% - about right, 3% - too little) and experimental programs (20% - too much, 26% - about right, 12% - too little).

Continued on Page 9

Table I
LIKE MOST ABOUT THE SCHOOLS

Good curriculum	13%	Good buildings	4%
Good teachers	12%	High standards	3%
Programs and Personnel meeting individual student needs	7%	Nothing any good	2%
Progressive programs	6%	Assorted other 73	17%
Like schools in general	4%	No opinion 104	23%

Table II
LIKE LEAST ABOUT THE SCHOOLS

Taxes too high	11%	Modular scheduling	3%
Nothing wrong	10%	Poor communication with parents	2%
Permissiveness, no discipline	8%	Assorted other	32%
Frills, waste	6%	No opinion	20%
Half days	4%		

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