

## THE VIEW FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

And now, a few thoughts from the bottom of the food chain:

By the time the month of May peeks it's nose out from under the covers of a Michigan winter, most folks are thoroughly fed up with being confined to the house or being forced into their Mackinaws and mukluks just to take out the trash. We call that 'cabin fever' and every self respecting Michigander gets it - every year. So it stands to reason that once the clouds part and the first ray of sunshine hits Jackson County - everyone who can possibly perambulate is out of the house exposing as much skin to sun as they can before the mosquitos hatch.

Around Concord, our attentions are happily turned towards putting out the patio furniture, dusting off the camping gear, loading up the fire pit, cleaning up the bikes and boats, getting the fields prepped to plant and generally getting ready to make the best of our far-too-short summer. In my 24,837 days on this planet I have never, not once, ever met anyone who goes into his or her spring and thinks about ballots, politics and voting. Never, not once. Let that percolate for a minute..... Now let me ask you a question: If no one ever thinks of ballots, politics or voting in May, why do we have ballot initiatives up for a vote in May? May 2<sup>nd</sup>, to be specific?

Now that you've given that a bit of cranial capital, let me tell you: Coming soon to a ballot box near you are two proposals put forth by the good folks at Jackson County. I posted them both in their entirety in an earlier missive on our community Face Book page: CONCORD, MI. COMMUNITY FORUM but they deserve your diligent scrutiny. Here, let me say that again: **THEY DESERVE YOUR DILIGENT SCRUTINY!** I have taken the liberty of including the ballots in this article below; read them over several times and if you don't understand how they will affect you as a citizen, a homeowner and taxpayer, call me, or someone you trust and ask. Here they are again:

### EXHIBIT "A"

#### SPECIAL EDUCATION MILLAGE RENEWAL PROPOSAL

This proposal will permit the intermediate school district to continue to levy special education millage previously approved by the electors.

"Shall the currently authorized millage rate limitation of 1.55 mills (\$1.55 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Jackson County Intermediate School District, Michigan, to provide funds for the education of students with a disability, be renewed for a period of 6 years, 2018-2023, inclusive; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2018 is approximately \$6,700,000 from local property taxes authorized herein (this is a renewal of millage that will expire with the 2017 tax levy)?"

### EXHIBIT A

#### PROPOSITION A

#### JACKSON COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES MILLAGE PROPOSAL

“For the purpose of providing mental health services for Jackson County residents, shall the Constitutional limitation upon the total amount of taxes which shall be assessed in one (1) year upon all property within the County of Jackson, Michigan, be increased, and shall the County be authorized to levy, up to 0.50 mill (\$0.50 per \$1,000 of Taxable Value) for a period of ten (10) years, 2018 through 2027, inclusive.”

If approved and levied in full, this millage will raise an estimated \$2,000,158 for providing funds for mental health services in the first calendar year of the levy based on taxable value. If approved and levied, in accordance with State law a portion of the millage may be distributed to the Downtown Development Authorities of the City of Jackson, the Villages of Grass Lake and Springport, and the Townships of Blackman and Leoni; the Local Development Finance Authorities of the Village of Parma and the Township of Blackman; and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of the City of Jackson.

As with all things legislative, the devil is in the details; and what is not said is as important as what is said. And I'm going to leave that right there. What is most critical is that you GET OUT AND VOTE!!! Don't leave your future in the hands of the few who will.

Respectfully,  
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