

Official Ballot Language Proposal 06-5

A LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE TO ESTABLISH MANDATORY SCHOOL FUNDING LEVELS

The proposed law would:

- Increase current funding by approximately \$565 million and require State to provide annual funding increases equal to the rate of inflation for public schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges, and higher education (includes state universities and financial aid/grant programs).
- Require State to fund any deficiencies from General Fund.
- Base funding for school districts with a declining enrollment on three-year student enrollment average.
- Reduce and cap retirement fund contribution paid by public schools, community colleges and state universities; shift remaining portion to state.
- Reduce funding gap between school districts receiving basic per-pupil foundation allowance and those receiving maximum foundation allowance.

Should this proposed law be approved? YES _____ NO _____

YES Properly funding public education is the economic key to success for Michigan's future. Proposal 5 is an education ballot initiative that requires the State of Michigan to provide reasonable annual inflationary funding increases to local public K-12 schools, intermediate school districts, community colleges and higher education institutions.

Proposal 5 also requires the State to fund any deficiencies in the School Aid Fund from the General Fund. Proposal 5 will help ease the burden of rising costs by capping Retirement Fund contributions for public schools, community colleges and universities. Additionally, Proposal 5 reduces the funding gap between school districts receiving basic per-pupil foundation allowances and those receiving the maximum foundation allowance.

There is a funding crisis in education today. In school years 2001-2004, K-12 school districts saw no increase in State Aid and Michigan's community colleges and universities had budgets slashed 15%. More than 50 local school districts in Michigan are approaching bankruptcy. Michigan must invest in public education by increasing teacher training, hiring additional counselors, math and science teachers, reducing class sizes and reducing rising college tuitions to help prepare more young people for the high-tech jobs of the future. YES, Education Proposal 5.

Provided by: *K-16 Coalition for Michigan's Future*

NO Voters Should Fail "K-16" Spending Mandate. Proponents of the "K-16" ballot proposal will tout the plan as "for education." The reality is that the plan is not at all about "education." Rather it's about funding teacher retirement at the expense of cuts to other critical government services, and tax increases on individuals and working families. This plan mandates automatic increases in school spending for Michigan's K-12 public schools, community colleges, and state public universities, regardless of revenues available.

The Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate—57 statewide organizations, including law enforcement, fire fighters, health care providers, social service organization, taxpayers, and local governments—believes this plan is wrong for Michigan. The cost of this proposal is extraordinary. The Senate Fiscal Agency estimates it will cost at least \$565 million more per year. This is on top of the recently passed FY 2006/07 education budgets totaling approximately \$400 million. The only way to pay for this proposal is through cuts to other critical services or tax increases.

Despite 974 words of petition language, the proposal never mentions student achievement or tuition restraint! It does detail a guarantee for teacher retirement funding. In fact, 2/3 of the funding is earmarked for retirement costs...quite obviously never intended "for the kids."

Provided by: *Coalition to Stop the K-16 Spending Mandate*

Clip & take to the polls

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7 • Polls will be open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Governor/Lieutenant Governor _____

Secretary of State _____

Attorney General _____

U.S. Senator _____

U.S. Representative _____

State Board of Education _____

University of Michigan _____

Michigan State University _____

Wayne State University _____

Supreme Court _____

Court of Appeals _____

Ballot Proposals 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

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