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SAVE FOR REFERENCE

Committee for Property Tax Relief
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6 REASONS WHY YOUR VOTE NOV. 4 SHOULD BE "YES"

1. What is the local option tax?

Essentially, it is a one-cent tax on sales and services that the people of Ames and Story County can approve and use the money for local concerns and needs.

2. Why do we need it?

For two reason: (1) to replace nearly $600,000 of lost revenue sharing funds that have gone to support human services and the arts; and (2) to give tax relief to property owners who have been the sole means the city or county could raise money.

3. What will the money be used for?

In Ames, 60% of the money, or an estimated $1.135 million a year, will go for property tax relief. The other 40%, or $757,000 a year, will go to support human services, the arts, and community betterment.

4. What does that mean for the average home owner in Ames?

The average home in Ames is valued at $70,000. If the local option tax had been in effect last year, that home owner would have paid $75 less in property taxes. Last year the total revenue raised in Ames from property taxes was $7,297,940. If local option passes, over $1.135 million will go for property tax relief each year.

5. What social service agencies are we talking about and what effect will the end of revenue sharing funds have on them?

In the past, the City of Ames has used $328,000 in revenue sharing funds to fund the human service agencies and the arts. The County has used $270,000 of revenue sharing funds for this purpose.

This $600,000 of funds is now gone. If it can't be replaced, a few of the agencies which rely on revenue sharing funds will survive with a substantial reduction in services, but most will cease to exist.

These agencies include Legal Aid, Senior Citizens, Ames Community Preschool, Children's Services, UMC Day Care, Committee For Criminal Justice, Center for Personal Development, Story County Developmental Center, R.S.V.P., Boys Club, Open Line, Youth and Shelter Services, Council on Aging, Sexual Assault Center, Ames Visiting Nurses, People Place, and Senior Citizen Coalition.

6. How high is our property tax and why?

Iowa ranks 14th in the nation in per capita property taxes paid.

Historically, it made sense to tax property owners for the services local government provided. The cities were called upon to provide streets, sewers, utilities, fire and police protection which clearly provided direct benefits to property owners.

When local government was called upon to provide social programs for juveniles, the elderly, for drugs and alcohol abuse, for day cares, and for battered women, the **only** means of funding these programs locally was to raise property taxes until federal revenue sharing eased some of this burden.

With the end or revenue sharing funds, the cost of these services is falling directly on local government. It doesn't make sense to say that only property owners should pay for these services. Clearly, they are not directly related to property ownership—they affect everyone in the community. The local option means that everyone supports them, not just property owners.

The local option will mean over $1,135,000 in property tax relief each year.

VOTE YES FOR LOCAL OPTION

Election Preview

A Story County Perspective — November 1, 1986

If Local Option Fails...

City Council Ponders Property Tax Hike

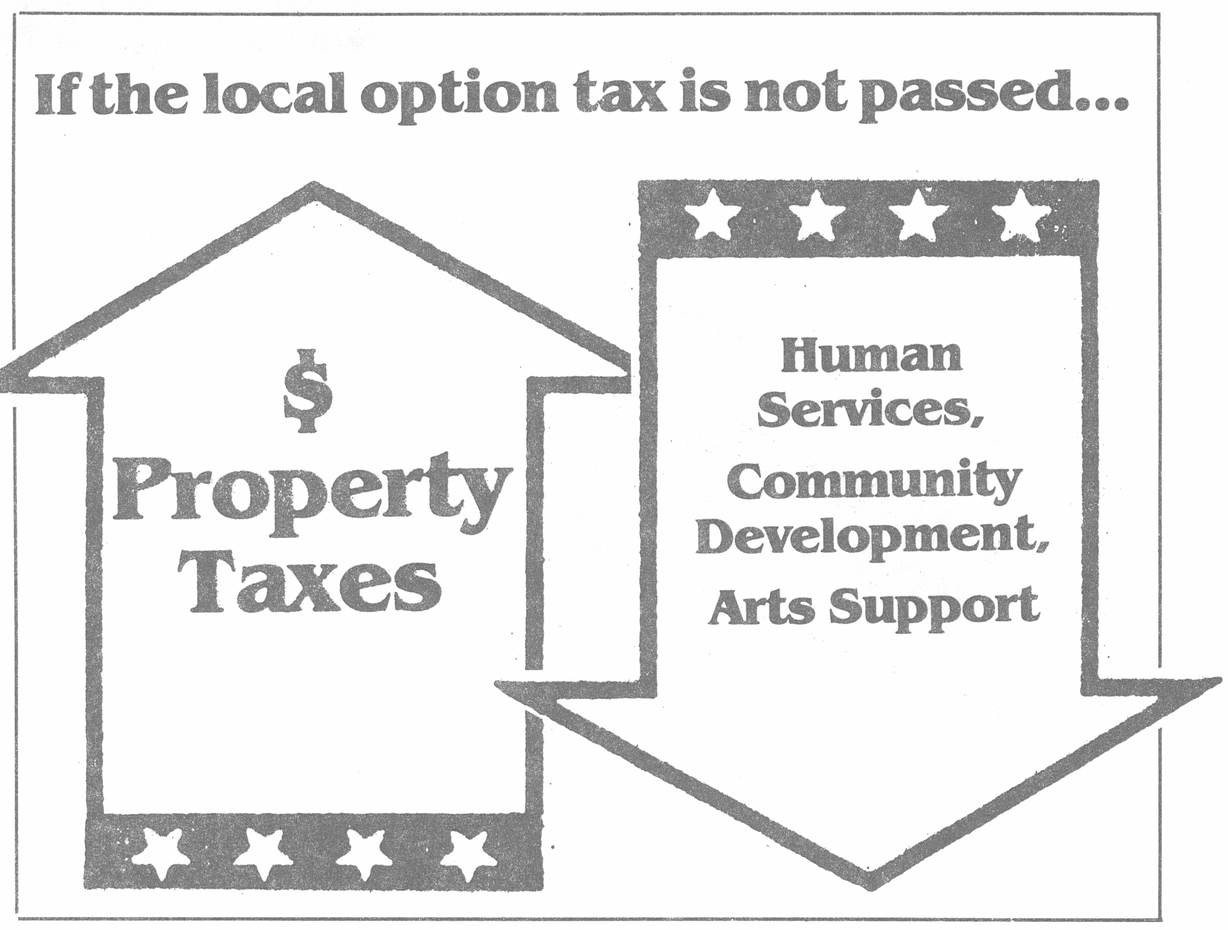
The headline here reflects the early "what if...?" thinking of Ames City Council it the local option 1¢ tax fails to meet with voter approval November 4.

Faced with certain cash shortfall due to the end of Federal revenue sharing, the Council must decide whether to push for a considerable property tax hike or to slash funding in local human services, city maintenance and development and community arts projects.

Without local option (which by state law can be no more than one penny on the dollar), property taxes are "the most likely source, the most readily available source of funds," observed Ames attorney William Tysseling. "And I don't think the property owners are especially keen on seeing their taxes raised again.

"No one likes additional taxes," said Tysseling, "but we all say we believe in fairness, and spreading the burden of taxation among all users of services is the fairest system."

The Ames Tribune has endorsed the tax, noting that most of "life's necessities" such as food and medicine will not be taxed.



Where Will The Children Go?

Child care service in the Ames and Story County area could be severly curtailed if a new local option tax is not passed, says Gerri Bugg, executive director of Children's Services of Central Iowa.

Currently, Children's Services provides child care, health and nutrition programs to over 2,000 Ames and Story County residents yearly. Services include four child care centers, child health services, and nutritional support for family day-care homes.

Some 250 families with young children benefit from these services on a sliding scale fee basis; nonpassage of the tax will eliminate this support. Already-because of funding cutbacks-200 children of low-income families are not receiving immunizations or well-child exams. Passage of the local option tax will restore these funds and help ensure safe care for children when their parents are not working.

Victims May Lose Compensation Funds

Story County victims of theft, violence and other losses may lose the possibility of restitution dollars if a local option tax is not passed November 4, according to Lynette Hanthorn, executive director of the Committee on Criminal Justice (CCJ).

Providing probation supervision, management of bad check recovery and mediation service for 12 years, CCJ has received over 50 percent of its operating funds through general revenue sharing of Federally allocated dollars. With revenue sharing now ended, CCJ's future is on the line.

Goal: Restoring Dollars and People

CCJ, through volunteer augmentation of paid staff, returns almost $50,000 annually to community crime victims. The parole supervision of over 400 persons charged with simple, serious or aggravated misdemeanors helps restore people resources.

The local option tax is said to be the best possibility for this organization to funding this work. Without passage...

"What does it mean?"

Support Sought For The Arts

"The public funding of support for the arts is an essential element for a vital and democratic society," affirmed Luther Kiser here recently, speaking on behalf of local residents who are involved in the arts. Nurture of the human spirit takes many forms, Kiser noted, and our society's goals should include an artistically enriched community of caring people. Such communities exist and improve because the common will has been expressed through public support of arts-related ctivities.

With the local option tax to be voted on November 4, said Kiser, "We have an opportunity at this time to focus that support and express that common will. A 'yes' vote does much more than provide property tax relief. It maintains our long history of attention to the artistic needs of our culture as one of our 'human' services." A 'yes' vote means the arts will continue to nourish community growth.