

MHCC goes to voters April 20 in bid for three year levy

Thurs., April 8, 1976 SANDY (Ore.) POST — 7

Registered voters of the Mt. Hood Community College District will approve or veto a three-year serial levy for college operational funding April 20.

"This is a very necessary issue," according to Robert Scott, acting president and business manager, "if this college is to continue its full-service approach to service in this district of 200,000 people."

"Ever increasing enrollment by people of all ages and inflation-hiked prices force the

need for passage of the serial levy," Scott said.

The three-year levy would provide \$1.9 million each year. The majority of the additional funding would go toward operational expenses and about \$150,000 each year would go toward equipment purchases.

"In essence, this levy is really a request for about \$1.2 million over the current year as the one-year budget booster, which expires June 30, is providing some \$632,297 this year," Scott said.

He said the cost of the levy would add approximately 70 cents in taxes per month, or approximately \$8.40 in taxes per year, to someone owning a house assessed at \$30,000.

The current college tax rate is \$2.23 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation (\$66.90 per year in taxes). If the proposed levy is approved, that would increase to an estimated \$2.51 per \$1,000 next year (\$75.30 per year in taxes).

The college estimates the tax rate for the levy would drop to

\$2.41 the second year and \$2.21 the third year due to increased valuation in the district.

George Howland, chairman of the citizens committee supporting the election, said his group is trying to inform voters of what the levy is for and what its cost will be.

Scott outlined the need for levy passage during a citizen committee open meeting March 30.

"To meet enrollment and inflationary demands without the added funding, drastic

changes in operations and programs would have to happen," Scott said.

Areas that would be affected if the levy fails include equipment repair and replacement, maintenance of facilities, staff layoffs, further tuition and fee increases, severe limitation or curtailment of community services, extremely limited or no evening classes in the high schools, drastic enrollment limitations, class size increase, elimination of some lower-

enrolled programs, and many others, Scott said.

"During the January attempt many people stated that we did not explain what programs were at stake if the levy failed and now some people have

indicated we are threatening them with program losses," Dr. Malcolm MacGregor, board chairman said.

"We are not threatening people, just trying to provide a

realistic picture of how important this issue is. You cannot cut some \$2 million out of a budget and not curtail or eliminate programs throughout the college."

Fire budget meeting set

Sandy Rural Fire Protection District 72 will conduct a public meeting on its proposed 1976-77 budget at the main fire hall April 20 at 8 p.m.

A copy of the budget, which had not been completed as of yesterday, will be available in the chief's office in the main

station on Pioneer Boulevard. Any interested person may appear to discuss the budget at the April 20 meeting.

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