

ST. JOHNS REVIEW

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Make the Vote Unanimous

Heavy responsibility rests on the shoulders of the voters and taxpayers of St. Johns in connection with the present intensive campaign for the passage of the \$2,000,000 1925 exposition tax measure at the special city election on Saturday, November 19th. St. Johns must show the rest of the city, the whole state, and even the nation that she is solid behind the exposition project or it will impair her chances of securing the location of the stupendous physical plant where the world's greatest exposition will be held. St. Johns is an open and avowed candidate for the honor of housing the coming world's fair. Her people have been boosting for many months for the great project, and more particularly with a view of having the Fair located right at our very doors.

Vigorous efforts are being made by the progressive group of citizens who believe they have a splendid chance of securing the site for the exposition, but the results of their strenuous campaign to roll up favorable sentiment will depend greatly upon the actual results of the election in this district. If St. Johns is not a unit behind the tax measure, it will be a notice to the rest of the city that St. Johns is luke warm for the Fair and is therefore not a suitable host to entertain the gigantic undertaking.

Exposition leaders have sent numerous workers into the St. Johns district and they have been carrying the message of the 1925 exposition out into the large productive industries where there are large numbers of employes and big payrolls, and it is in such industrial sections where the Fair boosters look for the strongest support for the campaign measure.

Opponents of the exposition tax proposition have been spreading reports that this is to be a "rich man's fair and that the heavy load is to be saddled onto the shoulders of the small property owners." Absolute denials of this report have been voiced by the exposition campaign leaders and they have the actual figures to prove that these charges are unfounded. Court house records show that the average assessment in the St. Johns district is only \$474, so that the average cost to the property owners of this district for the entire exposition, both city and state tax, would be only \$1.57 a year, or a total of \$4.72 for three years, and that amounts to less than half a cent a day, and none of this tax is to be collected until in the Spring of 1923. As a matter of fact, the average assessment against property in St. Johns is among the very lowest in the city, and therefore the taxpayers of this section will have a proportionate smaller part of the exposition cost to pay.

It is a well known fact that the districts where there are large numbers of productive and essential industries are the ones that reap the most and lasting benefits from such great enterprises, and for this reason the exposition leaders say that St. Johns should roll up an unusually heavy favorable vote at the city election, aside from the fact that St. Johns is in the field as a contender for the honor of holding the exposition.

--ST. JOHNS COMMUNITY CLUB