

# Letter: Referendums a brazen tax grab

Letters to the Editor 1:03 p.m. CDT October 18, 2014



(Photo: File/Sue Pischke/HTR Media )

Citizens must demand fiscal responsibility from their elected officials. The elected officials of the Manitowoc School Board have abandoned that responsibility as reflected in the three school referendum questions on the November ballot. Those referendums, if approved, will constitute the largest and most brazen tax grab in the history of Manitowoc.

The school board and district administrators downplay the fact that the \$2 million extra tax dollars they seek are not just for the next school year. They prefer that voters be unaware that approval of the three referendums will mean \$2 million extra tax dollars every year — forever!

Neither the school board nor district administrators can adequately explain what the extra \$2 million is needed for in the coming year much less what they will need this cash for two, five or 10 years from now. And if the referendums are approved they won't ever have to explain anything!

Moreover, if the school district is unable to live within its means now, with the generous tax dollars allotted to it, how profligate will it be with all of that extra taxpayer largesse? Soon, even the perennial extra \$2 million won't be enough as the district's endless wish list grows exponentially.

The board and the district administrators ignore economic reality. That reality defines economics as "...the study of the use of scarce resources, which have alternative uses."

Neither the board nor district administrators understand the term "scarce resources" and how appropriately it applies to the taxpayers of Wisconsin who pay the sixth highest property taxes among our 50 states

Therefore, we need to send them a message on Nov. 4 by voting a resounding no to all three school referendum questions. We simply can't afford the school board's and the district administrators' outrageous fiscal irresponsibility.

Don Zimmer

Manitowoc

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