

Vote 'no': Bedford bond proposal is one tax increase that we can control

On May 6, the property owners of Bedford Township are being asked to approve a 30-year school bond in the amount of \$70,350,000. This is at a time when:

- Energy costs continue to rise (gasoline, natural gas/propane and electricity).
- Health insurance rates are likely to increase significantly for many of us under the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare).
- A new library millage is being sought on this August's ballot.
- A tax increase is being discussed that would allow the Social Security benefits to be kept at the current rates for future retirees. Without this tax increase, a benefit reduction is likely.
- Social Security benefits for retirees were adjusted by a meager 1.5 percent to offset inflation for

the year 2014. This is the lowest rate increase in 10 years.

Increased taxes and expenses that we CAN'T control as homeowners are looming on the horizon. But this bond proposal is a tax increase that we CAN control.

There are issues with our older schools. But these current buildings can be made adequate (not perfect) for considerably less money than is being sought. Until the economy improves, we need to pursue the most reasonable proposal to fix the most pressing and realistic needs.

"Adequate facilities" could have been provided by one option that was presented by the school board in which "critical needs" could have been fixed at a cost of \$27.6 million. The school board chose to decline this option and is seeking to "demolish and re-invent the district" at more than double the cost!

More than facility issues are rolled into this new amount. It now includes new buses, band instruments (both junior and senior high), stadium restrooms, team room, track and field turf, band, drama and gym storage addition, auditorium renovations, a new stage and lobby.

The real truth is that our kids can be successfully educated in a less-than-perfect environment for the time being. Our folks and grand-folks are proof. They learned in more challenging conditions than we have. Let's get our students' "needs" met by borrowing only what we can afford.

Would you like to save some money on your taxes? Then I would urge you to vote no on this proposal in its current form.

**Ken Garn
Temperance**