

CITIZENS LEAGUE REPORT

No. 108

**League Position on creating a
Minneapolis IDS**

May 1959

Excerpt from minutes of meeting of Taxation and Finance Committee, April 30, 1959

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3. Mr. Magnuson presented report of Joint Education-Taxation and Finance subcommittee on final bill passed on special independent school district.

He said there were two major changes from the original proposal supported by the League:

(1) If no vote is petitioned for on a mill limit hike, there is an opportunity for another petitioned election within 60 days after two years experience under the limit increase.

(2) The vote required for conversion is changed from a simple majority of those voting on the question to 50% of those voting at the election or 53% of those voting on the question, whichever is lesser.

Mr. Magnuson said the joint subcommittee unanimously supports League endorsement of a vote to convert Minneapolis to a special independent school district.

He moved that the committee recommend to the Board of Directors that the League support the issue of conversion at the June 9 election. Second by Mr. Durfee, Carried.

TAXATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Memorandum re: Comparison of 1959 law on special independent school district with League proposals (report of October 21, 1958 for amendment of Chapter 122, and report of January 5, 1959 on draft of special act).

League proposals

1959 Law

- Provisions on selection, composition and tenure of School Bd members should be similar to those in Mpls charter, except School Bd should fill interim vacancies by appointment. (1) Same.
- On petition to convert to independent school district, signatures should equal at least 5% of votes cast at last regular municipal election. (2) No petition possible. Conversion issue submitted to voters on action of School Bd and City Council.
- Put School Bd's present tax limitation on per pupil basis, adjustable by cost-of-living factor, convert limit to one which includes all local tax sources for schools. (3) Mill rate limit retained. No cost-of-living adjustment. Limit applies to property tax only.
- Give School Board authority to increase limit on own resolution, subject to initiative petition by voters equal to 5% of votes cast at last regular municipal election. (4) Petition signatories required to be not less than 5% of those voting at last regular school election or 5,000, whichever is lesser.
If limitation increase is not submitted to people, it shall be in effect only for a two year period, and within 60 days of expiration of this two year period, voters may again petition as above.
Limit increase becomes permanent if voters approve it at a petitioned election, or if after second opportunity for petition, no petition is filed.
- Subject to conditions noted below, give School Bd authority to issue annually bonds up to $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of assessed value, and beyond that on approval of majority of those voting on referendum. (5) Annual issue by School Bd resolution--same. Beyond this--approval by majority of those voting at general city election or state primary or general election.

League proposals

Further conditions on bond issue authority: (a) assumption of present school debt by School Bd.
(b) vote of 2/3 of all Bd members on all bond issues.
(c) mandatory referral of all proposed bond issues to Planning Commission for comments as to compliance with City's plans.

Conversion act should become effective upon affirmative vote of majority voting on the question.

1959 Law

- (6) (a) Same.
(b) Same (except where Planning Commission disapproves. See (c) below)
(c) Same. Requires unanimous vote of School Bd to act in case Planning Commission disapproves. If School Bd not unanimous, a majority of School Bd may vote to submit bond projects to voters. Voter approval required: majority of those voting on the question at general city election or state primary or general election.

(7) Approval by majority of those voting at the election or 53% of those voting on the question, whichever is lesser.