

## Aurora Chamber backs East, West schools referendums

March 14, 2007

BY BEACON NEWS STAFF

AURORA -- The Greater Aurora Chamber of Commerce has announced its support for the tax referendums coming up in both the East and West Aurora school districts.

The chamber's board of directors voted to support the two tax hikes after hearing presentations from the districts' superintendents.

Chamber Director Joe Henning said the board was persuaded by the superintendents' data showing that both districts had cut operating expenses but still needed more revenue to keep up with the increasing "cost of doing business."

Chamber board members also said they were swayed by noting that the two Aurora districts have operating rate taxes lower than all other area districts.

East Aurora is seeking a property tax hike of 75 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, which comes to an increase of about \$250 on a house with a market value of \$100,000. West Aurora is seeking an increase of 50 cents per \$100 assessed value, an increase of about \$167 on a house with a market value of \$100,000.

Having Aurora schools funded at a level comparable to others in the Fox Valley, Henning said, "is imperative to a qualified workforce, stable property values and increasing business opportunities within the state's second largest city."

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