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Tax Plan Not Enough, Candidates Agree

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Q. "If Amendment 5 (which would do away property taxes for schools) passes, where do you propose to get the revenue shortfall if the sales tax increase fails to meet the revenue targets. Most projections I've seen say they won't."

Rob Hughes, 63,

Retired military,

Davenport

Republican primary candidates, STATE House District 64

C.J. "JACK" ENGLISH III:

A. An increase of 1 cent would not compensate for the loss of the ad valorem tax. Projections I have seen say it would need a 2.5- to 2.8-cent increase. I would not want to go after services like legal, advertising or food, medicine and rents. I would want to go after other exemptions, but I am not sure yet what they would be. I'd like to look at the whole tax code.


KELLI STARGEL:

A. The best estimate is about a 2.5-cent (sales tax) increase is what it would take. The amendment itself said it would not affect heating, housing, food, medicine, what people consider basics. I would look at some of the other exemptions ... optional services like haircuts. I would like to look at ways we don't have to make up all the shortfall, just be more efficient. One advantage of the sales tax is it broadens the base that's available, but that's a variable we really don't know.

PHILLIP WALKER:

A. I'm not in favor of Amendment 5. I'm believing Amendment 5 won't pass, but if it did, I would have to look at the whole scope of things, the tax code. We have a shortfall in education as it is. Where do you cut more? I would hate to tax services such as my profession (insurance) and accounting. I would not want to see a service tax or fee.

This story appeared in print on page B3

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