



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Sept. 22, 2009

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Michigan Sports Talk Radio's "The Huge Show" to Broadcast Live from Capitol Lawn to Protest Proposed Ticket Tax

New Poll Finds Voters Opposed to Ticket Tax

LANSING, Mich. — "The Huge Show" with sports talk radio host Bill Simonson will broadcast live from the state Capitol lawn from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 24 to protest the proposed "Ticket Tax" being considered by the Governor and some state legislators.

Gov. Jennifer Granholm has proposed a new 6-percent tax on tickets to all professional and college sports games, concerts and other "live" entertainment events in Michigan. The new tax would be applied to tickets to all college and professional (major and minor league) football, basketball and hockey games held in Michigan, and to concerts at places such as the Palace of Auburn Hills, the Fox Theater in Detroit, Van Andel Arena in Grand Rapids, the Breslin Student Events Center at Michigan State University, DTE Music Theater, Meadowbrook, and similar facilities. Even tickets to Michigan International Speedway would be taxed. In total, the new tax would raise about \$100 million from college students, alumni, families and others who purchase tickets.

The remote broadcast comes as a new statewide survey conducted by Marketing Resource Group (MRG) has found voters opposed to the Ticket Tax, 54 percent to 44 percent —with 43 percent strongly opposed. The survey of 600 Michigan voters was conducted Sept. 12-20 and has an error margin of ± 4.1 percent.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend the live remote broadcast. Huge Show listeners and people who visit the broadcast tent on the Capitol lawn will have a chance to win tickets to Detroit professional sporting events, official team apparel and other prizes.

"We respect that the Governor and Legislature are facing historic budget challenges, but taxing family fun and college students is no way to balance the state's budget," said Fans Against the Ticket Tax (FATT) spokesman Tom Shields. "The new 'ticket tax' would jeopardize the ability of working-class families to spend time together enjoying their favorite past times."

Shields said more than 5,000 Michigan citizens have signed up as members of FATT, and all of them are urging the Legislature to reject the Ticket Tax. Hundreds more have become friends of the FATT Facebook page. To date they have sent more than 2,600 emails to legislators urging opposition to the tax.

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“Most of the tickets to attend sporting events and concerts in Michigan are purchased by working class families and by college students and their families and friends,” Shields said. “The people who will pay this tax are working class Michigan residents and college students who are struggling to survive in the state’s worst-in-the-nation economy.”

FATT urges everyone who opposes the new Ticket Tax to take action at www.notickettax.com or call the toll-free hotline 1-877-NO-TK-TAX (877-668-5829). We also encourage people to friend us at our Facebook fans page, FATT.

In addition the Web site and Facebook page, FATT is educating the public about the Ticket Tax in other ways, including:

- Handing out flyers to fans attending college football games, Lions home games, Tigers home games, concerts and other live entertainment events in Michigan. FATT intends to distribute up to 100,000 flyers.
- Possibly purchasing paid ads in markets across Michigan.
- Working with local media to generate stories about the Ticket Tax.
- Flying “NoTicketTax.com” banners in the skies above tailgaters at home college football games.
- And more.

“The Huge Show” airs live, weekdays from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. on eight radios stations throughout Michigan: WBBL-AM 1340 Grand Rapids, 97.5 The Champ Muskegon, WQSN-AM 1660 Kalamazoo, The Game 730 AM Lansing, WFYC-AM 1280 Alma, WTRX-AM 1330 Flint, WDOW-AM 1440 Dowagiac, and WSCG-AM 1380 Greenville.

FATT is supported by the Detroit Red Wings, Detroit Pistons, Detroit Shock, Detroit Tigers, Detroit Lions, Lansing Lugnuts, West Michigan Whitecaps, Grand Rapids Griffins, Van Andel Arena, Michigan International Speedway, and DTE Music Theater.

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