painful
not fixed

property tax plan contains
points but wouldn’t fix the state’s
offered a plan Tuesday to reduce property
em from rising as fast as they have
eyears.
plan to permanently fix South Dakota’s
be scrutinized and debated in the weeks
aintains some attractive elements.
eds by the Legislature, provide South
bers with a significant reduction in their
property taxes.

And it would provide some
ssurance that property tax rates
won’t continue climbing as they
while still allowing local governments the
rate greater than inflation with the
tually would improve the state’s
mula, changing it from a system that
raising taxes to one that ensures that every
the same amount per student. And, by
property tax rate statewide to fund
would ensure that property tax payers are
cause they live in property-poor districts.
 isn’t the whole answer to South Dakota’s
proposals to fix the unfairness of the
Property taxes still would produce much of
fund local governments and schools. And
would be picking up more of the tab by
tax relief, it would be doing so primarily by
sales tax.
government in South Dakota would still rely
essive taxes — property taxes and sales taxes
en that links residents’ tax bills to their
live agricultural producers who would have to
tax bills even in years when their land is
ive people on fixed incomes struggling to pay
ow faster than their incomes as the values of
ill have people at lower income levels paying
h of their money in taxes than people with
ontains positive elements. It seems it would
ucture less painful.

Keep the tax,
city voters say

By Mark Andersen
Journal Staff Writer

Keep the tax! We mean it!
Rapid Cityans punctuated the mes-
gage they sent in 1993, voting nearly
3-1 Tuesday to continue a half-cent
sales tax.
The Rapid City Common Council
now can begin work to determine
which of seven proposed economic
development projects deserve prior-
ity.
“People felt they voted the first
time,” said Alderman Karen
Bulman. Their
message was, “We
want the tax
continued. We
already told you
once.”

Tuesday’s unofficial tally was 6,060
supporting the tax to 2,111 against,
or 74 percent for the tax to 26 per-
cent against.
For the second straight time, fewer
people voted to support an initiative
as signed petitions to put it on the
ballot. Petitions with 2,261 signatures
were turned into the city last fall.
The last initiative was on volume-
based garbage rates.
Tax opponent Bob Troth, who cir-
culated the tax initiative with Mar-
shall Curtis, said the election result
was a tough punch, but he was not
sure whether he would quit the tax
fight.

This half-cent tax is but a small
portion of the overall regressive tax
picture in the city and state, Troth
said. “You ask if I’m going to fight
again? I don’t know. ... I’m not satis-
ﬁed. That’s for sure.”

Voter turnout at 24 percent of eli-
ble voters, or 8,171 total voters, was
below 1993’s voter turnout of 26.5
percent, or 9,594 voters.
However, the half-cent tax found
1,021 additional supporters Tuesday.

City finance
officer quits

By Mark Andersen
Journal Staff Writer

Rapid City Finance Officer Richard
Wahlstrom will quit to take a job as
general manager of First American
Administrators.

Joe Dobbs, owner of First American,
made the announcement Tuesday.
First American Administrators,
foounded by Dobbs in 1983, is a
Healthcare Benefit Plan management