

## TAX MATTERS

DECEMBER 11, 2008, Issue #08-49, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.

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1. 2009 DUES – EXCELLENT RESPONSE, THANK YOU
2. TA SURVEY
3. LARRY DEBOER WORKSHOP
4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

### REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

#### NOVEMBER 27, 2008 (#08-48)

- SURVEYS AND DUES
  - If you will be paying after January 31, 2009, please let us know so that we may develop the 2009 budget accordingly.
- WHAT COSTS MORE PER YEAR THAN THE IRAQ WAR?

#### NOVEMBER 20, 2008 (#08-47)

- FLOOD ROAD REPAIR
  - Though not all the money promised by FEMA has been received, most of the repair projects have been completed. We commend the highway department for doing an excellent job in a short period of time.
- 2008 ANNUAL REPORTS/SURVEY
  - By now, you should have received a copy of the Taxpayers Association Annual Report. You should also find a survey accompanying this report. Please complete the survey at your convenience and return it using the pre-addressed envelope provided.
- TA ANNUAL MEETING DATE CORRECTION
  - The Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting will be held *Tuesday, April 28, 2009* instead of May 18 as was previously announced

#### NOVEMBER 13, 2008 (#08-46)

- COURT OF APPEALS RULING ON MAYOR
  - The complete ruling can be found here:  
<http://www.in.gov/judiciary/opinions/pdf/11130801ebb.pdf>
- CITY PARKS MASTER PLAN
  - The Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Department has just released their master plan for 2009-2013 and can be found in the TA office.

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit organization supported by membership dues. Any citizen or group of citizens in Vigo County may be a member. Current members are encouraged to promote membership in the organization by giving the attached application to a potential member. [See the TA application and dues structure.](#) This is NOT an invoice for your dues.

## 1. 2009 DUES – EXCELLENT RESPONSE, THANK YOU

As of today (December 11), 38 members have renewed their membership for 2009. On this same date a year ago, we only had 28 renewals for 2008. Your continued support of the work we do is very much appreciated. It now appears that the budget shortfall for 2009 may be as bad as expected. I believe the great response so far is indicative of what we can expect from the total membership. If you will be paying after January 31, 2009, please let us know so that we may develop the 2009 budget accordingly.

## 2. TA SURVEY

Thank you to our members who have replied to our survey. If you haven't had the chance to submit feedback to the survey, it is not too late. Since we still need more input, we are reprinting the survey. You can copy and paste the survey with your answers as a reply to this e-mail (taxtopics@aol.com). You can also fax or mail your survey answers to the TA office. Remember that your survey answers will remain strictly anonymous and confidential.

### TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION 2009 QUESTIONNAIRE

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
COMPANY \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
fax \_\_\_\_\_

These questions are intended to upgrade the TA database and acquire a general opinion on our service to the membership. Please respond with yes or no to the following.

1\_\_\_ Do we have your address information correct? If no, please put correct information above.

2\_\_\_ Are you receiving TAXTOPICS? (First week of each season)

3\_\_\_ Are you receiving TAX MATTERS? (Thursday of each week)

4\_\_\_ Can you help acquire an additional member by suggesting a contact person? If so, please supply name and company if applicable.

5\_\_\_ Do you think the 1% residential, 2% rental, and 3% business proposed property tax caps should be supported by the TA?

As you know from previous TA publications, there is opposition to classifying property tax and the issue may not be constitutional.

6\_\_\_ Would you accept a position on the TA board of directors? Terms are for 3 years, and we should have 27 board members with 9 new members each year.

7\_\_\_ Should the TA object to any and all new taxes, especially the local option income tax (LOIT) option?

8\_\_\_ Can you attend the TA annual meeting to be held April 28, 2009, at 12:00 noon at Idle Creek Banquet Center? Dr. Dan Bradley (ISU) will be the guest speaker.

9\_\_\_ Can you bring a guest to the annual meeting? A formal invitation and reminder will be sent to those answering yes to # 8 above.

### THESE ARE OPINION QUESTIONS

The 2009 TA income might not be enough to meet expenses. What services do you suggest we reduce in order to save money?

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We are developing a WEBSITE to promote tax related information to all that may be interested. What do you think should be included?

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It is clear that under the current economic conditions, local government services must be reduced. What services would you suggest that Vigo County units reduce or eliminate?

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## 3. LARRY DEBOER WORKSHOP

### The 2009 Session: A Larry DeBoer Workshop

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#### The 2009 Legislative Session: What Should We Expect?

[Click here for more information.](#)

What: A free online workshop given by Professor Larry DeBoer, Purdue University

Date: Thursday, December 18, 2008 from 2:00 to 4:30 EST

Who Should Participate: All individuals involved in county and local government budgeting (county councils and commissioners, mayors and city councils, clerk-treasurers, town boards, school boards, library boards, townships, etc.)

Description: Property taxes, the state budget, school funding, the effects of recession. There's a lot on the General Assembly's plate for 2009. Professor Larry DeBoer will discuss these issues in this installment of On Local Government. He'll look at the results of the property tax reforms for taxpayers in 2008, and look ahead at the effects on taxpayers and local governments in 2009. He'll review the state of the state budget, and look at the possible effects of recession on revenues and spending. And he'll ask, now that the state has taken over the whole school general fund, what will the school funding formula look like?

How to Access: This program will be delivered via 2-way video. Please access the workshop online via video streaming on Thursday, December 18 at <mms://video.dis.purdue.edu/agcomm> using Windows Media Player.

Cost: The workshop is **free**.

For more information, please access the hyperlink above or contact Lindsay Heinzman at [lheinzman@citiesandtowns.org](mailto:lheinzman@citiesandtowns.org).

By: Association of Indiana Counties

## 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS

The purpose of this calendar is to encourage taxpayers to attend public meetings. Taxpaying persons working at your business or living in your neighborhood should be encouraged to attend a meeting of their choice at least once per year. The date and time for the meetings listed below are always subject to change. Organizations that are underlined have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on their respective hyperlinks. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Mon. Dec. 15	5:30 pm	<u><a href="#">Human Relations Commission</a></u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Dec. 15	7:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Vigo County Public Library</a></u>	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Dec. 16	9:00 am	<u><a href="#">County Commissioners</a></u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Dec. 16	10:00 am	<b>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</b>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Dec. 17	9:30 am	<b>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</b>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Dec. 17	4:00 pm	<u><a href="#">City Redevelopment Commission</a></u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Dec. 17	7:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Airport Authority</a></u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Dec. 18	1:30 pm	<b>Tree Advisory Board</b>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Fri. Dec. 19	4:15 pm	<u><a href="#">City Park Board – Business Meeting</a></u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Mon. Dec. 22	2:00 pm	<u><a href="#">Board of Public Works and Safety</a></u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Dec. 22	4:00 pm	<u><a href="#">County Park Board</a></u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391

**END**

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