

## TAX MATTERS

JANUARY 22, 2009, Issue #09-03, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.

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1. CAPS – TAKE IT TO A REFERENDUM – NOT A GOOD IDEA!
2. EAGLE DAYS
3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

### REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JANUARY 15, 2008 (#09-02)

- MORE ON TENTH GRADE MATH TEST
  - Bill 1072 (found at <http://www.in.gov/legislative/bills/2009/IN/IN1072.1.html>), if passed, will reveal how many millions are wasted on testing
- GOVERNOR DANIELS' STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

JANUARY 8, 2009 (#09-01)

- PROPERTY TAX CAPS?
  - The 2009 Assembly will be considering the governor's proposed property tax caps. Serious questions must be answered before the issue is placed on the 2010 General Election ballot as a public question
- ISTEP TESTING
  - The testing methods currently used are not the best. One size does not fit all and never will. The actual Indiana tenth-grade mathematics graduation qualifying exam: [http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/docs/AppliedSkills/2008-Fall/04498\\_AS-MATH-Released\\_v03.pdf](http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/docs/AppliedSkills/2008-Fall/04498_AS-MATH-Released_v03.pdf)

DECEMBER 18, 2008 (#08-50)

- LINE ITEM, 2009 VIGO COUNTY BUDGET
  - [http://www.vigocounty.org/egov/docs/1228855013\\_206756.pdf](http://www.vigocounty.org/egov/docs/1228855013_206756.pdf)
- VIGO COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

DECEMBER 11, 2008 (#08-49)

- 2009 DUES – EXCELLENT RESPONSE, THANK YOU

DECEMBER 4, 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?

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. CAPS – TAKE IT TO A REFERENDUM – NOT A GOOD IDEA!

There has been discussion by several legislators concerning taking the property tax caps issue to a statewide referendum. This is not a good idea! Serious issues are involved in this action.

- ✚ The CAPS would need to be set before the referendum vote occurs – currently noted as 1%, 2%, and 3% for residential, non-residential (rentals and farmland), and business respectively
- ✚ Since the homestead owner receives the smallest cap, and the homestead owner is also the voter, the issue would surely pass since most voters would be looking out for their best interest.
- ✚ The CAP values have not been tested in actual practice; there may be a need to revise the limits
- ✚ The legislators are bucking the issue and transferring responsibility to the voter when the voter elected the legislator as their representative

As stated above, there is no evidence that the values of 1%, 2%, and 3% are the best CAP limits. Maybe there should be CAPS, but at different rates, such as 2% for all, or 2%, 2 ½ %, and 3%. The verdict on the best set of CAP values is not out at this time.

A business, which most likely will not be represented as a voter in the referendum vote, also does not receive exemptions similar to the homestead owner. The homestead owner pays 1% on a portion of their assessed value (the portion could be near the 50% level), while the business owner pays 3% (on about 100% of their assessment). With the home exemption in place, the business owner CAP is about 6 times the homeowner's CAP, much greater than the 1% to 3% ratio appears to indicate.

## 2. EAGLE DAYS

### 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Duke Energy Eagle Days 2009

Saturday, January 24 & Sunday, January 25  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Cayuga Generating Station, St. Highway 63, Cayuga, IN

Birds of Prey: 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.  
Presented by: American Eagle Foundation  
(Includes Live Captive Eagles)

*For More Information contact Tom Knapke  
At 1-800-832-3143 Reservations Not Required*

### 3. 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.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Public Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Fri. Jan. 23	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Mon. Jan. 26	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Jan. 26	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Jan. 26	5:30 pm	<b>Terre Haute Housing Authority</b>	2001 N. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	
Mon. Jan. 26	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Jan. 27	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Jan. 28	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Jan. 28	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Feb. 2	4:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Drainage Board</u>	County Annex	David 898-2685
Mon. Feb. 2	6:30 pm	<b>Local Emergency Planning Committee</b>	Library – Main Branch	Jon 232-5411
Mon. Feb. 2	6:30 pm	<b>Riley Town Board</b>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Feb. 3	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 3	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Feb. 4	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Feb. 4	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Feb. 5	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Feb. 9	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 9	6:00 pm	<b>West Terre Haute Town Board</b>	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Feb. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Feb. 10	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 10	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Feb. 10	7:00 pm	<b>Seelyville Town Board</b>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Feb. 11	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Feb. 11	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Feb. 11	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Feb. 12	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Sat. Feb. 14	10:00 am	<b>LEGISLATIVE CRACKERBARREL</b>	<b>Library – Main Branch</b>	<b>Nancy 232-1113</b>

**END**

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