

TAX MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 18, 2008, Issue #08-38, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
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1. IMPACTS OF PROPERTY TAX REFORM
2. CITIZENS' GUIDE TO PROPERTY TAX AND MORE
3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 (#08-37)

- TAX CAPS AND GAPS #2
 - If lower cap percentages are to be proposed by this organization, what do you feel would be fair? Should there be different caps? Should the state lock in on one cap for all types and let the trended AV be the variable?
- COUNTY COUNCIL SURVEY
 - <http://tax.vigocounty.org/tax/polls.html>

SEPTEMBER 4, 2008 (#08-36)

- TAX CAPS AND GAPS
 - The feedback I have had concerning the one, two and three-percent tax caps to be implemented in 2009 has been positive. However, these caps also lead to unfair taxing.
- GUBERNATORIAL DEBATES
 - Three gubernatorial debates have been set for this fall. The public may submit questions by filling out a form at www.indianadebatecommission.com.

AUGUST 28, 2008 (#08-35)

- PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS OUT – ARE YOU HAPPY?
 - We are paying 1% more in sales tax (a raise of 16 2/3%), which is the source of money for the additional homestead credit shown on your statement. Do you feel that you will be paying more or less in additional sales tax than you are saving in property tax?
- ASSESSMENT AND APPEAL INFORMATION
 - An insert that was mailed with every county tax bill should give you information on how to appeal the assessment of your property
- INDIANA CHAMBER'S LETTERS TO OUR LEADERS ON TAX CLIMATE AND BIPARTISANSHIP

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. IMPACTS OF PROPERTY TAX REFORM

The Center for Urban Policy and the Environment gave observations of our state's property tax reform in an August 2008 publication. They listed some positive and negative indirect effects of HEA 1001:

POSITIVE

- Lower expected property taxes may lead to higher purchase prices for homes, assuming other factors do not negatively affect housing prices (such as differences in taxes between nearby jurisdictions having different property tax rates).
- A decrease in foreclosures may result from reduced annual housing costs.
- Economic development may be stimulated because tax caps provide a degree of predictability for business owners.
- New constraints may cause local governments to find lower cost alternatives to current service provision.

NEGATIVE

- The use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) as an economic development tool may be limited for some local governments as a result of revenue constraints.
 - Proponents of TIF argue that if it wasn't for the TIF, investments leading to the new assessed value would not occur. However, in some communities, school districts and other taxing units have objected to the use of TIF, arguing that it directs revenue away from their unit. In a more constrained revenue environment created by the property tax reform, it would not be surprising that such contention over the use of TIF might increase.
- There may be pressure to increase county income taxes and to impose new or increased current user fees.
- Residential and business location decisions may be affected if local governments are forced to reduce desired local government services.
- The competition between local governments may increase for types of development that produce the greatest amount of property tax revenues.
- Assessments may be inflated to increase the tax base so budgets remain below the tax rate caps.

Full article - <http://www.policyinstitute.iu.edu/PubsPDFs/Property%20Tax%20Reform.pdf>

2. CITIZENS' GUIDE TO PROPERTY TAX AND MORE

The Department of Local Government Finance is responsible for making sure that local property tax assessments and budgeting follow the law. It is also responsible for reviewing and approving the tax rates. The DLGF web site has many articles of interest to the public. Today, we are suggesting that you access an article titled "Citizens Guide to Property Tax." This article answers several commonly asked questions such as "Where are my property tax dollars going?", "What is 'Trending'?", and "How do I find out when and where local budget hearings will be held?"

Full article: <http://www.in.gov/dlGF/2516.htm>

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. The contact person is also listed. You should call the appropriate office and confirm the date and time if you plan to attend.

Date	Time	Public Meeting	Location	Contact Info
Mon. Sep. 22	2:00 pm	Board of Public Works and Safety	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Sep. 22	4:00 pm	County Park Board	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Sep. 22	5:00 pm	County Council	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Mon. Sep. 22	7:00 pm	Vigo County School Board	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Sep. 23	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Sep. 23	10:00 am	City Board of Sanitary Commissioners – Special Call	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Wed. Sep. 24	4:30 pm	City Park Board – Business Meeting	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Sep. 24	7:00 pm	Airport Authority	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Fri. Sep. 26	5:30 pm	Information Technology Advisory Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Tue. Sep. 30	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Oct. 1	9:00 am	City Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Oct. 1	7:00 pm	County Area Planning Commission	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Oct. 2	7:00 pm	City Council – Sunshine Meeting	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Oct. 6	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Oct. 7	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Oct. 7	10:00 am	City Board of Sanitary Commissioners	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Oct. 7	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Oct. 8	10:00 am	Area Board of Zoning Appeals	County Annex	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Oct. 8	2:00 pm	E-911 Advisory Board	County Jail – Sheriff’s Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Oct. 8	4:30 pm	City Park Board – General Meeting	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Oct. 8	7:00 pm	Airport Authority	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Oct. 9	7:00 pm	City Council – Regular Meeting	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375

END

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