

TAX MATTERS

**FEBRUARY 2010, Issue #10-02, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

7 S Meadows Shopping Center

phone (812) 235-1361

TAXTOPICS@AOL.COM

fax (812) 234-0568

www.taxtopics.org

www.twitter.com/VigoTaxTopics

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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

JANUARY 2010 (#10-01)

- **TA PUBLICATIONS**
 - Tax Matters will now be sent via e-mail monthly. Tax Topics will also be sent 3 times a year.
- **NEXT BOARD MEETING**
 - March 16th, 2010 at the Vigo County Public Library
- **CONTEST**
 - February 27th, 2010 at the Vigo County Public Library
- **STATE REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES REPORT**
 - http://www.indianafiscal.org/docs/IFPI_IntrastateTax.pdf

DECEMBER 17, 2009 (#09-48)

- **TAX QUESTIONS AND PROBLEMS**
 - Comparing the taxes of hypothetical adjacent properties in different townships
- **CAGIT & EDIT**
 - The Indiana Legislative Services Agency has now made available the amount of CAGIT and EDIT dollars to be re-distributed to Vigo County during calendar year 2010. This is local income taxes collected during the past 18 months and held by the state for return distribution beginning in January 2010.

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) 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. THE CAPS QUESTION

We have compiled a spreadsheet of the voting results of two questions asked in the [November 2008 general election ballot](#):

- 1) Judicial Retention Question – Justice of the Supreme Court
 Shall Justice Randall T. Shepard be retained in office?
 Yes No
- 2) Public Question – Local Public Question #1 (for Harrison Township voters only)
 Should the assessing duties of the elected township assessor in the township be transferred to the county assessor?
 Yes No

We looked at the number of voters in each county precinct and ward who selected a choice for these two questions, regardless of whether they were for or against the issue. There were also voters who just skipped over each question. The following is a summary of the voting data on the Shepard and the township assessor retention questions. The full spreadsheet can be found here:

<http://www.taxtopics.org/CountyTownshipVotingYNStudy.xls>.

	Justice Shepard Question		Retain Harrison Township Assessor	
	% of Ballots Cast	% of Registered Voters	% of Ballots Cast	% of Registered Voters
Overall Total	70.15%	39.12%	81.25%	41.27%
Max*	83.13% T.H. Harrison 4 th D	55.76% Pierson	88.41% T.H. Harrison 5 th E	60.49% T.H. Harrison 8 th C
Min*	58.68% T.H. Harrison 5 th C	20.08% T.H. Harrison 4 th A	60.49% T.H. Harrison 5 th C	21.10% T.H. Harrison 4 th A

* Excludes Terre Haute – Riley Township due to small amount of voters

This November, all registered voters will have an opportunity to vote on amending the Indiana constitution. This would be an important decision as it would take a simple majority of those who voted on the issue to make the property tax caps law a permanent one. The following ballot language was passed in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee on January 26 and will likely appear on our November 2 ballots:

PUBLIC QUESTION

Shall property taxes be capped for all classes of property by amending Article 10, Section 1 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana to:

(1) limit a taxpayer's property tax liability to 1% of the gross assessed value of homestead property, 2% of the gross assessed value of other residential property, 2% of the gross assessed value of agricultural land, 3% of the gross assessed value of other real property, and 3% of the gross assessed value of personal property, excluding any property taxes imposed after being approved by the voters in a referendum and excluding property taxes that are for bonds issued before July 1, 2008, and are imposed before 2020 in Lake County or St. Joseph County;

(2) permit the General Assembly to exempt a mobile home used as a homestead to the same extent as real property; and

(3) specify that a property tax exemption may be granted in the form of a deduction or credit, and that the General Assembly may impose reasonable filing requirements to obtain an exemption, deduction, or credit?

___ Yes ___ No

Only 41.3% of registered voters in Harrison Township made a decision on whether their township assessor should be retained, while just 39.1% of registered Vigo County voters determined whether an Indiana Supreme Court justice should remain for another term. Both of these questions had one sentence each, and just around 40% of registered voters bothered to put a choice for this issue. The caps amendment question is extremely detailed and wordy. It is quite possible that the fate of this important amendment rests in the hands of fewer than 40% of Indiana's registered voters. It should also be remembered that voter turnout is usually less in non-presidential elections.

2. THE EAGLE COMPETITION

The second annual EAGLE competition will be held Saturday, February 27th, 2010, 10:00 am at the Vigo County Public Library. High school students from Vigo County will compete for cash and scholarships by answering 150 questions and writing a short essay. The topics covered on the test are local and state taxes, government and citizenship. The total purse goal is \$1,000. At this time, we have pledged donations totaling \$800. **If you would like to support this competition, let us know and we will invoice you accordingly. You may instead make a 501(c)3 donation to the winning school.**

Here is an excellent example of the test the students will be taking.

<http://pewresearch.org/politicalquiz/quiz/index.php>

This test is twelve questions and will require just a few minutes of your time. When finished, you will be given the correct answers and a comparison of your score with the thousands of other people who have done the test.

3. TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

The 2010 Annual Meeting is planned for May 4, but could be April 27 depending on the availability of our guest speaker which is yet to be confirmed. The next TA Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members) will be held Tuesday, March 16, 2010 at the Vigo County Public Library lower level. Bring a bagged lunch if so desired. The library has drink vending machines.

4. TOWNSHIP EXPENDITURES 2009

Township reports have been published in the Terre Haute Tribune-Star recently. We are presenting a compact view of each township's expenditures for 2009, along with names of each trustee and board member.

TOWNSHIP	TRUSTEE	BOARD	TRIBUNE AD DATE	2009 EXPENDITURES
FAYETTE	PAUL ALLSUP	LARRY DAVISON VIRGINIA DUNKLEY DON VERMILLION	2.11.10	95,966.87
HARRISON	DEBRA KIRK PETERS	JOHN BRENTLINGER BARBARA FORD ROBERT LAWSON	1.26.10	774,116.52
HONEY CREEK	CHARLES R. BECKWITH	JOSEPH KENWORTHY JON FORD STEVEN SCHROEDER	2.11.10	27,483.36
LINTON	BIONCA GAMBILL	JEFF GORMONG DEBRA L. HASKELL	2.06.10	59,140.03
LOST CREEK	RICK D. LONG	THOMAS E. NICOSON ROBERT ALL DAVID J. MASON	1.26.10	121,001.42
NEVINS	CARL H. GREGORY	MARIETTA COOPER ROBERT MORELAND KELLY HARTZLER	2.12.10	164,809.81
OTTER CREEK	ROBERT D. SALMON	BETTY EASTHAM JOHN MEYERS J. MICHAEL SMITH	2.02.10	273,395.66
PIERSON	ROBIN BROWN	DUANE DEE DALTON DAVID W. BROWN DONNA McCOSKEY	1.29.10	95,250.36
PRAIRIE CREEK	C. DOYLE PIETY	ALLAN HODGES REX SWALLS SHANA L. PORTER	2.13.10	75,674.98
PRAIRIETON	DAVID F. PHELPS	WARREN PIGG DAN L. SHIELDS MICHELE L. PHELPS	1.28.10	95,250.36
RILEY	ROBERT F. FLESHER	ERNEST WEDDLE, JR. ROBERT W. ROGERS	2.04.10	29,528.67
SUGAR CREEK	JAMES CHRISMAN	LEWIS BRACKALL MIKE ANDERSON	2.03.10	425,982.98
TOTAL				2,237,601.02

5. STATE OF THE CITY OF TERRE HAUTE ADDRESS BY MAYOR DUKE BENNETT

Mayor Bennett presented the State of the City on February 4, 2010. You can go to the city's web site (which is a link on our web site) and listen to the audio. Here are the Power Point slides used during the address, containing many pertinent facts that you may find interesting without actually hearing the audio.

State of the City PowerPoint Presentation:

<http://www.terrehaute.in.gov/2010%20State%20of%20the%20City%20presentation.pdf/view>

State of the City Audio: <http://www.terrehaute.in.gov/SOTC2010.mp3/view>

6. BIG NUMBERS

The 2009 PAY 2010 Total Assessed Valuation is **\$3,607,394,856**. The net exempted AV for this same period is **\$1,004,131,900**. Here are the figures we have given in the past of the previous decade AV's and three years of exempted properties. It is interesting to note that the current exempted properties are over 21% of the grand total.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Assessed Valuation</u>	<u>Exempted AV</u>	<u>Total AV</u>	<u>% of Exempted AV</u>
2004	\$3,598,749,540			
2005	\$3,677,987,330			
2006	\$3,613,955,389			
2007	\$3,950,640,713			
2008	\$4,017,089,889	\$808,199,080	\$4,825,288,969	16.75%
2009	\$3,565,379,224	\$989,756,300	\$4,555,135,524	21.73%
2010	\$3,607,394,856	\$1,004,131,900	\$4,611,526,756	21.77%

7. TERRE HAUTE NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIP

The last Terre Haute Neighborhood Partnership meeting occurred on January 26, 2010. The minutes can be found here: <http://www.taxtopics.org/NeighPart.min.01-26-10.pdf>. The next meeting will be held on February 23.

8. ANNEXATION – Parts of Honey Creek Township

The City of Terre Haute is studying the possibility of annexing certain business districts of Honey Creek Township. Here are two items for your review:

- 1) The Indiana Municipal Annexation Law – <http://www.in.gov/legislative/ic/code/title36/ar4/ch3.html>
- 2) A map of the proposed zones to be annexed - http://media2.wthitv.com/pdf_files/10/02/rs-7-10-attachment.pdf

9. 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.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Public Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Contact Info</i>
Mon. Feb. 22	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Feb. 22	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Feb. 22	5:30 pm	Terre Haute Housing Authority	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Feb. 22	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Feb. 23	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Feb. 23	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Feb. 24	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Feb. 24	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Feb. 24	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Sat. Feb. 27	10:00 am	The Eagle Competition	Vigo County Public Library	Bernard 235-1361
Mon. Mar. 1	4:30 pm	Animal Control Board	City Hall – 1 st Floor	
Mon. Mar. 1	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Mar. 2	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 2	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Mar. 2	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Mar. 3	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 3	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Mar. 4	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Mar. 8	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Mar. 8	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Mar. 8	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Mar. 9	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Public Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Tue. Mar. 9	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Mar. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Seelyville Town Board</u>	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Mar. 10	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Mar. 10	2:00 pm	<u>E-911 Advisory Board</u>	County Jail – Sheriff's Training Room	Greg 462-3226 ext. 320
Wed. Mar. 10	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Mar. 10	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Mar. 11	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Mar. 15	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Mar. 15	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Mar. 16	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 16	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Mar. 16	12:00 noon	<u>Taxpayers Association Board Meeting</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Mar. 17	9:30 am	<u>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</u>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Mar. 17	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Mar. 18	2:00 pm	<u>Tree Advisory Board</u>	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Mar. 22	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Mar. 22	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Mar. 22	5:30 pm	<u>Terre Haute Housing Authority</u>	2001 N. 19 th Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Mar. 22	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Mar. 23	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Mar. 23	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Mar. 24	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Mar. 24	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Mar. 24	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Tue. Mar. 30	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367

10. QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*“To those who talk and talk
This adage doth appeal
This steam that blows the whistle
Will never turn the wheel.”*
- Author Unknown

END

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