



Hear Ye, Hear Ye....

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Do not delay! Timing is everything! Contact your State Legislators now!!

With statewide public uproar over property taxes combined with several major political "overhauls" by the voting public in many areas, both the Statehouse and Governor have been posturing for political appeasement.

To date, at least two different plans have unfolded, neither of which CDCPTR sees the advantage of adopting. Each plan has both its strong and weak points, and by the time our Legislators put their "spins" on them, they'll probably be watered down to nearly nothing.

Regardless of the reason driving any given tax relief plan, whether it be Governor Daniels' or the Legislative Commission's offering, the CDCPTR sees a timely opportunity to instill in our elected representatives the urgency to come up with a comprehensive and permanent relief package. Obviously we think both considerations fall short in that neither permanently abolishes property taxes, which we believe will ultimately be the only answer.

There are, however, several items of interest, and we assume that when the State Legislature finally returns to some resemblance of work in January they will be looking first and foremost at the current property taxes in Indiana.....or at least they better be!

Here's what we need every Delaware County resident to do with utmost urgency:

Immediately contact your State Legislators, who are:

Senator Sue Errington
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9467 • s26@in.gov

Representative Dennis Tyler
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9842 • h34@in.gov

Representative Bill Davis
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204
1-800-382-9841 • h33@in.gov

There are several specific points that we need to drive home in our contacts with them;

No property tax relief will be acceptable without a change to the Indiana Constitution that will make it permanent.

Public capital projects creating a taxable impact MUST be approved by Referendum.

Unified local budget controls and the total reorganization of the assessment system must be overseen by the State.

Optional Local Taxes are not the cure all and only lends to abuse by local taxing authorities.

Get onboard the effort for permanent property tax repeal!

If you want to add some additional feedback on how property taxes have affected you, we strongly suggest you capitalize on the opportunity while you have their ear. We have over 3,000 people on this newsletter mailing, and they need to hear from all 3,000, at a minimum!

CDCPTR initiates Petitions for government reorganization!

Petitions being circulated for both City and County reorganization committees to perform studies. PLEASE SIGN ON!!

In typical Delaware County fashion, the Delaware County Commissioners have attempted the political "rope-a-dope" regarding the CDCPTR's proposed County and City reorganizations. Subsequently, the CDCPTR has published Petitions, and signatures are being solicited for the creation of committees to study and subsequently make recommendations and plans for the reorganization of Delaware County and the City of Muncie. The Petitions require a minimum of 1,615 signatures from across the County; therefore we need YOURS! You must be a Voter!

The local Delaware County Government was given the opportunity and was strongly urged by the CDCPTR to organize committees to study the reorganization voluntarily. Unfortunately, the **publicly elected officials** tasked with making this decision have chosen to hide behind the cowardly political practice of "Governance by Avoidance" with their failure to respond. Subsequently, in accordance with IC 36-1.5, the CDCPTR has initiated a public petitioning effort to take the decision making process away from the government and put it in the hands of the citizens.

A study by the CDCPTR resolved that various political subdivisions as well as several government departments are redundant and unnecessary to the ongoing operation of local government. In the area of the county-wide Assessor system alone, it was estimated that by consolidating the 12 different township Assessor offices into the Delaware County Assessor office, the savings could be

\$750,000 to \$1 million per year. Furthermore, with the consolidation, the CDCPTR is inclined to believe that the county-wide assessment efforts performed by one unified Assessor's office could only result in more uniform assessments of both residential and commercial properties.

The CDCPTR has also delivered to the Muncie City Council a copy of what has been proposed to the Delaware County government in anticipation of the City being invited to organize a committee and study of its own. The CDCPTR's formal request to the City has been delayed by the sitting of a newly elected City Council and will probably be delivered in January.

In anticipation of the popular "**political do-si-do**," the CDCPTR has elected to coordinate its petitioning efforts for the County to include a simultaneous petition for the City of Muncie to appoint the Committee and initiate the study as well.

Both of the requests and petitions fall under IC 36-1.5 the Indiana Code for Government Modernization. This law encourages local government efficiency and cooperation to reduce property taxes and enhance services. The two committees requested by the CDCPTR could even cooperate in their efforts to find areas ripe for modernization, reorganization, and efficiency across the entire Delaware County community.

The entire law, the CDCPTR requests to Delaware County and the City of Muncie as well as the Petition sign up locations may be found on the CDCPTR website www.propertytaxrepeal.com. If you don't have internet access and want to find out where to sign the Petitions, call:765-881-0183.

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

<p>HOME</p> <p>BLOGS</p> <p>CONTACTS</p> <hr/> <p>GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE</p> <p>LOCAL TAXING UNIT BUDGETS</p> <p>PETITION & REMONSTRANCE INFO</p> <p>MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION</p> <p>NEWSLETTER THE TAXPAYER CRIER</p> <hr/> <p>Common Construction Wage Hearing added to routine schedule for Delaware County! Please see the Government Meeting Schedule!</p> <hr/> <p>STOP INDIANA WEBSITE & VIDEOS</p>	 <p>Citizens of Delaware County for PROPERTY TAX REPEAL</p> <p>Mission Statement: Non-Partisan, Grass Roots organization of the citizens of Delaware County for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responsible Government Spending 2. Responsible and Responsive Public Officials 3. Repeal of Indiana Property Taxes <p>CDCPTR circulating Reorganization Petitions!</p> <p>1,700 countywide signatures needed to initiate reorganization committee and study. And we need yours!</p> <p>PLEASE GET SIGNED ON THESE PETITIONS! (Must be a Delaware County Registered Voter)</p> <p>"Governance by Avoidance" Delaware County Commissioners force citizens' hand by failing to act upon CDCPTR's request to create committee and study voluntarily!</p> <p>Show your support for a better Delaware County and Muncie by displaying a sign in your yard! (Click for a sign samples and location listing)</p>	<p>HELP US HELP YOU! By giving your most valuable asset: YOUR TIME We consistently need volunteers to attend Government Meetings, Petition circulation & signing and Election Day Poll work.</p> <p>Fight Back!</p> <p>The Delaware County and City of Muncie Reorganization Petitions are now in circulation!</p> <p>They are available for signatures at:</p> <p>Hlatt Printing 1716 N. Wheeling Ave. Muncie, IN 47303</p> <p>Michael's Shoe Repair 1706 N. Wheeling Ave. Muncie, IN 47303</p> <p>F.C. Tucker Realty 1706 N. Wheeling Ave. Muncie, IN 47303</p> <p>Alexander & Co. Real Estate 1600 W. Riggan Rd. Muncie, IN 47303</p> <p>Army-Navy Surplus 1815 E. Jackson St. Muncie, IN 47305</p> <p>This is your opportunity to make a difference! 2017 Delaware County Election Results Posted! (On Misc. Information page)</p>
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What Can I Do?

Since the beginning of our property tax debacle I have met many beleaguered tax payers who are fed up with the irresponsible government spending and excessive property taxes that plague Muncie and Delaware County. Many of those concerned citizens have asked "How can I help?" Well consider the following suggestions:

The CDCPTR website is listed above along with a small picture of the Website Home Page. For those of you with internet access, there are several things that you can do:

Familiarize yourself with the CDCPTR website. It is very easy to use. There are new links added daily, but most of what you need can be accessed from the links on the left side of the Home Page.

Use the Miscellaneous Page to get ready access to the forms necessary to get all the property tax credits you deserve. Do you want to appeal your assessment? The forms are there. Want to see local comparative data? It's there. All this and a multitude of other property tax related information and links are available on this page.

Use the Contacts Page to send "tax repeal" and "wasteful governments spending" emails to Senator Sue Errington, Representative Dennis Tyler, Representative Bill Davis and Governor Mitch Daniels. Provide your name and contact information. Tell them a little about yourself and your tax

situation and how the increase has impacted you and your family. Ask them if they support the permanent repeal of property taxes, and advise them that you are very curious about what they are going to do to address our current tax crisis. Be respectful, but don't be shy. They work for us, we elect them, and we pay their salaries. Some other ways to support our efforts are....

Attend government meetings of City Council, County Council, County Commissioners, School Boards, Library Boards and other government entities as much as possible by checking the "GOVERNMENT MEETING SCHEDULE" link. Our presence and interaction is an excellent way to demonstrate that we are concerned about the future direction of our community.

Volunteer for the multitude of needs of the CDCPTR by e-mailing or telephoning and indicating your interests and/or areas of expertise.

Show your support by acquiring a CDCPTR yard sign. A good-will donation is requested but certainly not mandatory. We understand that you may be broke from paying your taxes!!

Consider an economic support of our efforts by making routine donations. Please remember that the CDCPTR is constantly expending resources in fighting our overzealous taxing units. A \$5-\$10 per month commitment would go a long way to help offset some of our costs, including this newsletter.

- Jim Arnold

Legal Chambers: How important is my signature on Petitions?

Petition, petitions, petitions, that seems to be the song right now. The legal options and processes that the voting and taxpaying public have to confront local government and school spending currently lies primarily with the Remonstrance and Petitioning processes.

As we touch base with the many laws that pertain to the local taxing units' procedures for budgeting and spending our tax dollars, the importance of the public's understanding and participation in these processes can be best demonstrated by beginning with the Remonstrance processes outlined in IC 6-1.1-20.

This is the law that pertains to Bonds and Indebtedness of political subdivisions such as major school building projects. The law provides for the taxpayers to unite against a proposed public project that is going to adversely affect their taxes.

A very good example of this is the current Remonstrance effort that is occurring in the Liberty-Perry School Corporation. The first step consists of petitioning for the right to initiate the Remonstrance. This requires a minimum of 100

legal signatures and can include both property tax owners and registered voters of the taxing district incurring the debt, in this case the Liberty-Perry Schools.

More often than not, this initial petitioning alone results in the taxing unit taking another look at their "wish list" and reducing their request. In the Liberty-Perry issue, **this immediately reduced their request by nearly \$7 million!! Consider this, Each one of those signatures was worth \$70,000.00!**

Then begins the actual Remonstrance process against the proposed debt (or what's left of it). Again, it's a petitioning process, but now there are both "For" and "Against" petitions. It's basically a "race of signatures," very much like going to the polls and casting your ballot. The most signatures wins. Just like voting, this a very tightly controlled process that is handled by the local Voters Registration Office.

To emphasize the importance of Petitions and getting on board with signing them, **the Liberty-Perry debt appears to have been defeated!** Congratulations to the Selma area citizens!!

Time to dispel the myths

Opponents of the Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal (CDCPTR) movement routinely claim that it is solely an ideological effort, and that all who are associated with the group are wealthy business owners, landlords, and Republicans.

Nothing could be further from the truth. This I personally know after having worked over the past several months alongside volunteers who come from every walk of life and every political persuasion.

The reasons for their volunteerism are as varied as the individuals themselves. Some are focused on total property tax repeal, something that could take up to four years to accomplish. Others believe reining in government spending is key to any solution. And some believe in a combined approach. But the common denominator is that taxes, specifically local property taxes, are just simply out of control.

While the struggle toward the total repeal of property tax will

be a protracted one, the demand by citizens for responsible, efficient government can and is happening now, thanks to the CDCPTR movement. Key spending areas are being taken to task for poor management/budgetary practices, and irregularities are being spotlighted. A sleeping giant in the form of its citizenry in this city/county is being awakened. One only needs to look at greater attendance and participation in governmental meetings as proof.

Contrary to opponents' cries, the CDCPTR movement is not identified with one political party. It is instead a reflection of that which is truly American--a purely democratic process--by the people, of the people, and for the people.

If you want to effect change in the way your local government operates, contact the CDCPTR Group through the website:

www.propertytaxrepeal.com

or by telephone at:

765-881-0183.

- C.A. Bouslog

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Muncie Community Schools: The deft art of fleecing the Muncie Taxpayers

Part 1 of a 3 part series:

Very early in the organization of the Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal, it was quickly acknowledged that certain local taxing units had run roughshod over the taxpayers for years and needed immediate confrontation to arrest their spendthrift behaviors.

The Muncie Community School Corporation quickly rose to the top of the list of the "most wanted" by virtue of their 38% stake in our overall tax burden and the obvious characteristics of spoiled kid in a candy shop.

Closer scrutiny by CDCPTR members tasked with the assignment of getting the MCS on a honest and realistic track of tax dollar stewardship revealed that the MCS had developed a long, unchecked history of "creative budgeting" and blatant tax dollar waste.

Because of timing and the fact that the CDCPTR's

formation fell dead center in the middle of all the local taxing units' 2008 budget preparations, the issue of confronting the MCS 2008 Budget fell first on the list of targets. The CDCPTR immediately identified several areas of the MCS Budget that were suspect and felt should be addressed in accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-5 and an Objecting Petition effort. The Muncie community effectively responded, and the Petition was filed with nearly 10 times the signatures necessary.

Next came the effort to thwart the MCS Capital Project Fund. At \$7.6 million per year for a total of 3 years, this Fund amounted to an overall taxable burden of nearly \$23 million. While still in the midst of a \$55 million overall renovation effort across most of the MCS' infrastructure, this attempt to pilfer an additional \$23 million of capital improvements amounted

to nothing more than a "slap in the face" of the local MCS taxpayers. To add insult to injury, more than \$13 million dollars of the \$23 million requested for the Capital Projects Fund, were to "duplicate" line items straight out of the General Fund! Less than \$10 million dollars requested were actually budgeted for future capital improvements! Again, the CDCPTR mounted a Remonstrance effort under IC 20-46-6-13. And, once again, the Muncie taxpayers magnificently responded with multiple times the required signatures. We ultimately had our "day in court" with an Indiana Department of Local Government Finance Hearing on October 18, 2007. The results of that hearing, as of this writing, have yet to be determined.

At the Hearing by the DLGF on October 18th, an interesting discovery that had been made by the CDCPTR was entered into

evidence as further proof of the cavalier attitude by the Muncie Community School Corporation in its ongoing squandering of the local taxpayers' hard-earned dollars. The Common Construction Wage Agreement associated with the \$55 million overall renovation efforts by the MCS was discovered to have been executed by an appointed committee that was both unethical and illegal in its composition. The result of which amounted to an **estimated \$8 million of tax dollar waste** across the multiple construction projects associated with the Agreement.

In part two of this series we will cover the specific details of that agreement and how our elected and subsequently appointed Muncie Community School officials strategically position themselves and their meetings to preclude public confrontation and admonishment.
- Chris Hiatt

Elected Officials Scorecard

The voting and public positions of our elected public officials.

	Property Tax Repeal	Cap.Proj.Referendums	County Consolidations	City Consolidations	City/Co. Consolidations	Dept. Consolidations	Personnel Reductions	Privatization of Svcs	Tax Abatement	TA Non-compliance Penalty	Forced Annexation						
Sen. Sue Errington	N	N															
Rep. Bill Davis	Y	N															
Rep. Dennis Tyler	N	N															
DC Cms. John Brooke			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cms. Tom Bennington			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cms. Larry Bledsoe			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cnc. Brad Bookout			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cnc. Joe Russell			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cnc. Ron Quakenbush			Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N							
DC Cnc. Mary Chambers			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cnc. Mel Botkin			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cnc. Ted Bowman			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
DC Cnc. Chris Matchett			N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
Mayor Dan Canan				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Bill Shroyer				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Sam Marshall				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Bruce Wiemer				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Jack Isenbarger				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Mary Jo Barton				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Dave Taylor				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Monte Murphy				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Alison Quirk				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						
MC Cnc. Chuck Leonard				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y						

Important Government Meetings Schedule

Please plan on attending at least some of these meetings!
Cut this schedule out and place it where you can't forget!

Monday, 12/03/07 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 01/07/08 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall

Monday, 12/03/07 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall

Tuesday, 01/08/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Tuesday, 12/11/07 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 01/07/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Tuesday, 12/11/07 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Tuesday, 01/22/08 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 12/17/07 @ 6:30 pm:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Albany Town Hall
Albany, IN

Tuesday, 01/22/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Thursday, 12/27/07 @ 1:15 pm:
Common Construction Wage Hearing
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie
Check for meeting being held at:
<http://www.in.gov/labor/calendar.html>

Thursday, 01/24/08 @ 1:15 pm:
Common Construction Wage Hearing
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie
Check for meeting being held at:
<http://www.in.gov/labor/calendar.html>

Monday, 01/07/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 02/04/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

The Citizens of Delaware County
for Property Tax Repeal, Inc.
1716 N. Wheeling Ave.
Muncie, IN 47303

Inaugural Edition!!

December/January, 2007



The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Committed to educating the taxpaying and voting citizens of Delaware County for the betterment of government, community and reduced taxes.

HELP US HELP YOU!

December challenge: Sign the CDCPTR Petitions!

January challenge: Enlist at least one new citizen!

If your name is "Current Resident", please update your information with the CDCPTR!!



The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier is published bi-monthly by the Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal, Inc. promoting the dissemination of information for the purpose of educating the Citizens, Voters and Taxpayers in pursuit of our primary goals:

Responsible Government Spending;

Responsible and Responsive Public Officials;

Repeal of Indiana Property Taxes.

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Memorable Quotes:

"Who better to watch out for the school's interest in setting construction wages (and spending the taxpayer's money) than the chief financial officer and director of facilities (of MCS)" –

Dr. Marlin Creasy, MCS Superintendent, regarding his top two administrators appointing themselves to the Common Construction Wage Committee for the MCS building projects.

"He's the person most familiar with what wages are being paid on construction project.....Why, would you appoint a clerk of Wal-Mart?" –

John Brooke, Atty. and County Commissioner, regarding his illegal appointment of Union Business Agent and Gaston native, Jack E. Neal, Jr. to the Common Construction Wage Committee for the MCS building projects.

"My political radar tells me there may be some consolidation coming of city and county services.....I worked for 33 years in a union environment, and one of the last things I wanted to see happen was anyone lose their job.....why in the world would we want to put people out of work?" –

Steve Knote, Superintendent of the Delaware County Highway Department upon submitting his resignation.