



Hear Ye, Hear Ye....

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## BSU squanders a minimum of \$4.2 million on new North Residence Hall as they continue to resist increasing support of local services

In an age when every taxing unit is, or at least should be, seeking out and implementing every conservative and cost cutting measure they can muster, Ball State appears to shun the entire concept of being fiscally responsible and is spending money like drunken sailors.

While Muncie is reorganizing and reducing many departments and services including Police and Fire, one has to wonder whether Ball State will try and cry foul when confronted with the threat to public safety, including that of its students.

Ball State will defend their

spend thrifty behavior arguing that the monies being spent on these projects are not tax dollars, rather "profits" skimmed from the top of on-going student housing costs. However, their waste of \$4.2 million and possibly as much as \$6.7 million dollars, no matter where the dollars are coming from, seems rather hypocritical in the face of their host community's struggles.

Following in the steps of some of our local elected officials in patronizing "special interests" at the cost of the taxpayers, see the chart below for the fiscal impact of the latest monument to excess and waste.

## County Commissioners and Governor Daniels' appointments continue to cost Delaware County Taxpayers dearly!

**With safety and other services threatened, tax dollar waste exceeds \$500,000.00 in 2008 alone!**

While citizens may have grown wise to the blatant illegal appointments to the Common Construction Wage Committee, our County Commissioners have found that their special interests can still be served with a "legal" appointments apparently gleaned from research and recommendations from the local union hall.

Unfortunately, it might not surprise us, but only further our disappointment, if the real facts surrounding the enlistment of "special interest lobbyists" would ever surface. It is very much "business as usual" from the "Delaware County Politics of Past" book as the taxpayers of this County continue to bear the brunt of excessive costs associated with

their public and school construction projects. Even against the will of the entities that are writing the checks.

Commissioner's appointment, County Engineer, Michael Denton, went on an irrelevant, but memorable "diatribe" on how bridges are never built by other than union workers, even in the face of documented evidence to the contrary.

Commissioner's appointment, and union carpenter, Steven Wright's subsequent "apologies" appeared to reinforce the discomfort of slicing his own throat economically.

Then, there's Governor Daniels' appointment, Kenneth Boucher, who once again stuck it to the taxpayers, favoring less than 12% of the Delaware County workforce.

All told, over \$500,000.00 has been squandered in 2008 alone.

Skill Classification	BSU Agreement AFL/CIO Skilled Rate	Competitive ABC Skilled Rate	Percent Difference	BSU Agreement AFL/CIO Fringe Rate	Competitive ABC Fringe Rate	Percent Difference	BSU Agreement AFL/CIO Total Rate	Competitive ABC Total Rate	Percent Difference	
Boilermaker	\$30.00	\$25.40	18.11%	\$16.25	\$6.70	142.54%	\$46.25	\$32.10	44.08%	
Bricklayers	\$26.30	\$22.75	15.60%	\$12.32	\$6.40	92.50%	\$38.62	\$29.15	32.49%	
Carpenters	\$24.95	\$21.30	17.14%	\$10.30	\$5.50	87.27%	\$35.25	\$26.80	31.53%	
Carpet Layer	\$24.95	\$17.50	42.57%	\$10.30	\$4.30	139.53%	\$35.25	\$21.80	61.70%	
Cement Mason	\$21.25	\$22.75	-6.59%	\$9.56	\$6.40	49.38%	\$30.81	\$29.15	5.69%	
Electrician	\$28.95	\$23.00	25.87%	\$10.40	\$6.50	60.00%	\$39.35	\$29.50	33.39%	
Elevator Constructor	\$30.28	\$27.30	10.92%	\$12.12	\$8.50	42.59%	\$42.40	\$35.80	18.44%	
Glazier	\$25.58	\$17.60	45.34%	\$10.13	\$5.20	94.81%	\$35.71	\$22.80	56.62%	
Hod Carrier	\$20.02	\$15.00	33.47%	\$8.90	\$3.80	134.21%	\$28.92	\$18.80	53.83%	
Iron Worker	\$23.68	\$21.45	10.40%	\$13.59	\$6.25	117.44%	\$37.27	\$27.70	34.55%	
Laborer	\$20.02	\$15.00	33.47%	\$8.90	\$3.80	134.21%	\$28.92	\$18.80	53.83%	
Millwright	\$23.02	\$20.77	10.83%	\$12.99	\$5.10	154.71%	\$36.01	\$25.87	39.20%	
Operating Engineer	\$25.65	\$20.90	22.73%	\$9.56	\$6.00	59.33%	\$35.21	\$26.90	30.89%	
Painter	\$20.00	\$17.00	17.65%	\$8.24	\$4.20	96.19%	\$28.24	\$21.20	33.21%	
Plaster	\$22.70	\$18.20	24.73%	\$8.82	\$4.80	83.75%	\$31.52	\$23.00	37.04%	
Plumber & Steamfitter	\$27.17	\$25.40	6.97%	\$12.28	\$6.70	83.28%	\$39.45	\$32.10	22.90%	
Roofer	\$19.68	\$18.40	6.96%	\$6.34	\$5.00	26.80%	\$26.02	\$23.40	11.20%	
Sheet Metal Worker	\$28.34	\$21.30	33.05%	\$15.15	\$4.50	236.67%	\$43.49	\$25.80	68.57%	
Sound & Communication	\$28.50	\$19.40	46.91%	\$10.40	\$5.50	89.09%	\$38.90	\$24.90	56.22%	
Sprinkler Fitter	\$29.19	\$19.70	48.17%	\$10.50	\$5.45	92.66%	\$39.69	\$25.15	57.81%	
Terrazzo Worker	\$22.70	\$17.50	29.71%	\$9.62	\$4.30	123.72%	\$32.32	\$21.80	48.26%	
Terrazzo Finisher	\$19.56	\$17.50	11.77%	\$9.62	\$4.30	123.72%	\$29.18	\$21.80	33.85%	
Tile & Marble Setter	\$22.77	\$17.50	30.11%	\$9.62	\$4.30	123.72%	\$32.39	\$21.80	48.58%	
Tile & Marble Finisher	\$19.56	\$17.50	11.77%	\$9.62	\$4.30	123.72%	\$29.18	\$21.80	33.85%	
Truck Driver	\$17.60	\$15.50	13.55%	\$5.49	\$3.75	46.40%	\$23.09	\$19.25	19.95%	
Truck Driver Mechanics	\$17.60	\$15.50	13.55%	\$5.49	\$3.75	46.40%	\$23.09	\$19.25	19.95%	
Warehouseman	\$21.56	\$15.00	43.73%	\$7.05	\$3.80	85.53%	\$28.61	\$18.80	52.18%	
Overall Averages	\$23.76	\$19.49	21.95%	\$10.13	\$5.15	96.66%	\$33.89	\$24.64	37.57%	
							<b>Total Average Percent Difference</b>			<b>38.51%</b>

Summaries	Estimated AFL/CIO	Estimated ABC	Total estimated	Estimated Manhours based upon 10,000 manhours/\$1M costs	Estimated AFL/CIO	Estimated ABC	Total estimated
	wages at 45% total current cost	wages at 45% total current cost	wages overpaid AFL/CIO vs. ABC		labor costs based average total wage	labor costs based average total wage	wages overpaid AFL/CIO vs. ABC
Total BSU Projects Cost	\$46,000,000.00	\$20,700,000.00	\$13,986,486.49	460,000	\$15,591,274.07	\$11,333,377.78	\$4,257,896.30

# The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

## Indy's schools aren't only ones broken Guest Column by: Jeff Abbott

The hard-hitting series in The Indianapolis Star exposing the problems of the Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS) was thoughtful and poignant. This writer has known the IPS superintendent for over 20 years on a professional and personal basis. He has achieved national distinction and is widely hailed for his many professional accomplishments.

Moreover, Dr. White is a man of great vision, courage, integrity and dedication to children's learning. He has an excellent intellect and outstanding leadership skills. He is surely one of the best leaders of schools in the country.

Despite all these accolades, the Star is right not to expect Dr. White to be the savior of IPS.

Why not? Because the system is broken and in need of repair — not just IPS but the system of public schooling throughout Indiana. It is designed more for adult interests than children's interests. This writer has represented over 60 Indiana public school districts and has seen them from the inside. The same types of problems exposed by the Star could be exposed at nearly every school in Indiana. Our school districts are full of politics, self-dealing and self-interest groups with their own agendas. Some even have corruption.

W. Edward Deming, one of the founders of the Quality Movement, once observed that about 94 percent of an organization's problems are due to the design of the system rather than the fault of the workers. Despite this, policy-makers continue to denigrate teachers and school building-level leaders by heaping more and more laws and bureaucratic regulations upon them. With this has come the near destruction of teacher and school-leader accountability, responsibility, creativeness and innovation. Policy-makers have reduced teachers and school leaders to compliance officers, their main duty being to enforce compliance with the thousands of laws and regulations that govern public education. It is time that state and federal legislators recognize that teachers and school leaders cannot be regulated into excellence.

Courageous school leaders are all too often quickly devoured by the domineering political system and the interest groups. Even if they succeed in reforming a school district here or there, the changes may be short-lived as interest groups elect new school board members to dismantle the reforms

and return the district to status quo ante.

The system of public schooling in Indiana was created by the Legislature over 100 years ago in the horse-and-buggy era. It is past time to redesign that system to meet the needs of students and citizens in the 21st century.

A redesigned Indiana public school system should have these building blocks as its foundation:

- Deregulation of public schools and the dismantling of the educational bureaucracy.

- Creation of an environment where teachers and school leaders are free to practice their profession by focusing on the needs of their clients (the children) and not on politics.

- Personal and group responsibility and accountability for all school staff.

- A compensation system for all school staff that rewards performance excellence rather than mediocrity.

- Free choice of schools for parents.

- A weighted student-funding formula where state revenue follows the child.

The Freedom Schools model described in the spring issue of the Indiana Policy Review meets that criteria. Such a model, if adopted by the Indiana General Assembly, could save more than \$50 million. How can that be? As with any bureaucracy, the state education bureaucracy can be substantially reduced by moving from a system that is highly regulated and political to one that is profession-centered. Conversely, as long as the system remains highly regulated by the Legislature and the bureaucracy it has put in place, even the most bureaucratic jobs are necessary. Someone, you see, has to fill out all the paperwork and assure compliance with the plethora of laws and regulations now governing Indiana schools.

This writer has faith in the many dedicated and caring professional educators who toil daily in this broken system. These same professionals, freed from excessive regulation and politics, would be able to improve student academic achievement. Let's give them the opportunity to do so.

Jeff Abbott, J.D., Ph.D., is an adjunct scholar with the Indiana Policy Review Foundation, a former superintendent of the East Allen County School Corporation and an assistant professor in the Education Department at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

## Legal Chambers: MCS indebtedness: Is it a Constitutional violation?

You be the judge.....

The Indiana Constitution, Article 13 reads....

### ARTICLE 13. Political and Municipal Corporations

#### Section 1. Debt limitation

***No political or municipal corporation in this State shall ever become indebted, in any manner or for any purpose, to an amount, in the aggregate, exceeding two per centum on the value of the taxable property within such corporation, to be ascertained by the last assessment for State and county taxes, previous to the incurring of such indebtedness; and all bonds or obligations, in excess of such amount, given by such corporations, shall be void:*** Provided, That in time of war, foreign invasion, or other great public calamity, on petition of a majority of the property owners in number and value, within the limits of such corporation, the public authorities in their discretion, may incur obligation necessary for the public protection and defense to such amount as may be requested in such petition.

## Muncie Community Schools total debt is....

<b>Muncie Community School District</b>	
<b>Total Assessed Value of Taxable Property.....</b>	\$2,000,000,000.00
<b>Indiana Article 13 Constitutional</b>	
<b>2% Cap of Total Assessed Value .....</b>	\$40,000,000.00
<b>Outstanding Muncie Community Schools</b>	
<b>Debts (Principle Amounts Due as of July 2008):</b>	
Taxable General Obligation Bonds Series 2004.....	\$4,485,000.00
First Mortgage Refunding Bonds Series 2005.....	\$19,815,000.00
First Mortgage Bonds Series 2006 .....	\$55,000,000.00
<b>Aggregate (Total Combined) Muncie</b>	
<b>Community Schools Debt (July 2008).....</b>	\$79,300,000.00
<b>Muncie Community Schools Debt</b>	
<b>in excess of Indiana Constitutional Cap.....</b>	\$39,300,000.00
<b>Total Muncie Community Schools Debt</b>	
<b>as a percentage of the Total Assessed Value.....</b>	3.97%

Now, the question(s) beg.....

How does this happen? Who is responsible?

Do our State Legislators condone this by turning a "blind eye" while schools exploit "loopholes" in the Law?

What is the recourse? Do we confront this issue in the courts or at the polls?


Maybe it should be remembered that several of our State Legislators signed on to an amendment that increased ballot referendum thresholds of school and public capital projects. These increases essentially nullified the taxpayer protections initially built into the HB1001 tax legislation.

# The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Citizens of Delaware County for **PROPERTY TAX REPEAL**  
[www.propertytaxrepeal.com](http://www.propertytaxrepeal.com)

**CDCPTR'S "4-CORNERS" COMMUNITY UPDATE**

**CITIZENS OF DELAWARE COUNTY FOR PROPERTY TAX REPEAL COMMUNITY UPDATE**



**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**

THE CDCPTR HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK BECOMING MORE AWARE, INFORMED AND INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT AND ISSUES THAT AFFECT ALL OF US. COME HEAR MORE DETAILS ABOUT HB1001, THE PROPERTY TAX REFORM LEGISLATION THAT WAS RECENTLY VOTED INTO LAW. INDIANA SENATE DISTRICT 26 SENATOR, SUE ERRINGTON AND INDIANA HOUSE DISTRICT 35 REPRESENTATIVE, JACK LUTZ, WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO HELP SORT OUT THE NEW LEGISLATION. IN ADDITION, HEAR MORE ABOUT WHAT EFFORTS THE CDCPTR HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON LATELY.

DO YOU WANT TO STAY INFORMED? DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND CONCERNS.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2008**  
**STARTING AT 9:00 AM**  
**OSBORN COUNTRY KITCHEN**  
**9144 W. SMITH, YORKTOWN, IN**

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**  
**INDIANA DISTRICT 26 SENATOR SUE ERRINGTON**  
**INDIANA DISTRICT 35 REPRESENTATIVE JACK LUTZ**

For more information call 765-881-0183 or logon to:  
[www.propertytaxrepeal.com](http://www.propertytaxrepeal.com)

## CDCPTR 4-Corners Community Updates well received. Yorktown/Daleville event scheduled on June 28th at Osborn's Country Kitchen.

The first two CDCPTR Community Updates turned out to great events for local citizens to interact personally with their elected State Legislators and learn some of the details associated with the new property tax legislation, HB1001.

The first event, held on April 26th at Delta High School auditorium, featured Indiana House District 33 Representative Bill Davis who was extremely well prepared as to the most important issues regarding the property tax reform.

The second event was held at the Mill Street Inn in Gaston the following Saturday, May 3rd. The banquet room was packed to capacity as nearly 50 people showed up to hear Indiana House District 35 Representative Jack Lutz speak to his insights of the legislation and answer citizen's questions.

The third event is now on the schedule for June 28th at Osborn Country Kitchen in Yorktown. Currently, both Indiana Senate District 26 Senator Sue Errington as well as Indiana House District 35 Representative Jack Lutz are scheduled to be on hand. CDCPTR will also update you on their efforts and answer questions as well. Hope to see you there!

## The Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal needs your help and support of our many ongoing efforts!

Obviously, we have a lot of "irons in the fire". With that, we incur routine and sometimes substantial expenses. We have an "Operational Fund" for ongoing expenses such as this newsletter, candidate forums and advertising. We have a "Legal Fund" for litigation efforts to confront and arrest ongoing issues as well as routine legal opinions and advice. Please consider a donation to either one, or both. We have an ongoing need to update our e-mail database for contacting you with important information. Please send us an e-mail through our website. And, we have a need for volunteers to attend government meetings, work the polls and support taxpayer friendly candidates. We NEED YOU! Please consider your support!

## Elected Officials Scorecard

The voting and public positions of our elected public officials.

Legend	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	Allied with Spc. Interests
Y = Yes, in favor												
N = No, not in favor												
- = Undecided..... (yet to demonstrate by vote)												
Sen. Sue Errington	N	N										-
Rep. Bill Davis	Y	N										-
Rep. Dennis Tyler	N	N										-
Rep. Jack Lutz	N	N										-
DC Cms. John Brooke			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	
DC Cms. Tom Bennington			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	
DC Cms. Larry Bledsoe			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y	
DC Cnc. Brad Bookout			Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	
DC Cnc. Joe Russell			Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	-		
DC Cnc. Ron Quakenbush			Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	
DC Cnc. Mary Chambers			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	-	
DC Cnc. Mel Botkin			Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N	N	N	
DC Cnc. Ted Bowman			N	N	N	N	N	Y	-	Y	-	
DC Cnc. Chris Matchett			Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	-	
Mayor Sharon McShurley				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N	
MC Cnc. Sam Marshall				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
MC Cnc. Alison Quirk				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
MC Cnc. Mary Jo Barton				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
MC Cnc. Monte Murphy				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
MC Cnc. Jerry Dishman				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
MC Cnc. Mike King				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	
MC Cnc. Linda Gregory				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N
MC Cnc. Brad Polk				Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	-	N
MC Cnc. Mark Conatser				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

## 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, 6/2/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Tuesday, 7/8/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN
Monday, 6/2/08 @ 7:30 pm: Muncie City Council Meeting (Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier) City Hall Courtroom Muncie City Hall	Monday, 7/21/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 6/10/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN	Tuesday, 7/22/08 @ 9:00 am: Delaware County Council Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN
Monday, 6/16/08 @ 6:30 pm: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Selma Town Hall Selma, Indiana	Tuesday, 7/22/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 6/24/08 @ 9:00 am: Delaware County Council Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Monday, 8/4/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 6/24/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN	Monday, 8/4/08 @ 7:30 pm: Muncie City Council Meeting (Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier) City Hall Courtroom Muncie City Hall
Monday, 7/7/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Tuesday, 8/12/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN
Monday, 7/7/08 @ 7:30 pm: Muncie City Council Meeting (Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier) City Hall Courtroom Muncie City Hall	Monday, 8/18/08 @ 6:30 pm: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Yorktown High School Auditorium Yorktown, Indiana



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

June/July, 2008

PRESORTED STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 165  
MUNCIE, INDIANA

## The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier



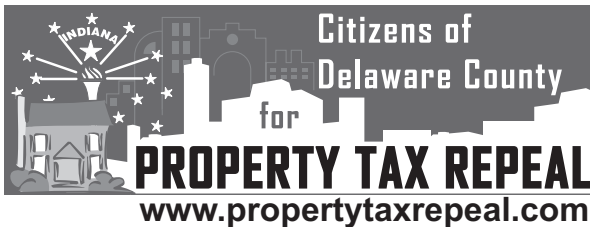
Committed to educating the taxpaying and  
voting citizens of Delaware County for the betterment  
of government, community and reduced taxes.

### HELP US HELP YOU!

June challenge: Attend two different government meetings!  
Meeting list can be found in this newsletter.

July challenge: Register one new voter!!  
Voter registration form can be found on web site.

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  
bimonthly 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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will be returned if requested. The Delaware County Taxpayer  
Crier Editor reserves the right to edit submissions for content,  
length and clarity. The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier  
submissions may additionally be published on the Citizens  
of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal, Inc. website.

## Memorable Quotes:

*"I'm not your [expletive] Representative....you're [expletive] unrepresentable!....."* –

**Dennis Tyler**, Indiana House District 34 Representative responding  
to Chris Hiatt's objection to his use of foul language with his  
constituents.

*"You're all a bunch of [expletive] liars....you [expletive] people  
(citizen/taxpayers?) ought to be ashamed of yourselves!....."* –

**Dennis Tyler**, Indiana House District 34 Representative's unsolicited  
remark to Delaware County citizen, Victoria Rabenstein.

*"Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey  
and car keys to teenage boys"* –

**P.J.O'Rourke**

*"I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is  
like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the  
handle."* –

**Winston Churchill**

*"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes the propagation of  
ideas which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical."* –

**Thomas Jefferson**