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## Center Township Voters to decide important issue regarding future structure of local government! Vote YES on the Referendum!

Come the General Election on November 4th, the Voters of Center Township will be given the opportunity to make an important decision regarding the future of Delaware County's government.

HEA1001, that went into law on July 1, 2008, immediately abolished the local Township Assessors in Townships of less than 15,000 parcels. The Center Township Assessor in Delaware County was one of those that survived this State mandated reorganization.

HEA1001 reduced the number statewide Assessors from 1008 to 135. In November, the Voters can reduce that number to 92 with the elimination of the remaining 43 Township Assessors.

During the 2008 General Assembly, the Assessors launched an all out assault on State Legislators. Speculative arguments were made that their elimination would result in higher costs to the taxpayers as opposed to savings. The fact of the matter is, that **within 90 days of the abolishment of the 11 other Township Assessors, the Delaware County Assessor testified to the County Commissioners of a documentable savings of nearly \$1 million in the consolidation of the Assessor duties and associated reassessment costs.**

Now, the Center Township Voters must take charge of making the informed decision as to whether to totally unify a county wide effort of assessment duties or to allow Center Township to sustain their own feifdom. We think that there are several basic facts that must be taken into consideration.

First would be the common sensed position that one county wide

office focused and dedicated to a primary and important responsibility could operate more effectively and efficiently than two with varying interpretations of the same data.

Second would be the issue of taxpayers continuing to pay for duplicate, overlapping costs and services. If you are a property taxpayer in the City of Muncie, you are paying for **both the costs and services of the Center Township Assessor as well as the County Assessor!** Does this make any sense? This is just one of several tax-funded offices and services that we are strapped with paying for TWICE!!

Third, HEA1001 addressed one primary objective, property taxes. What was left was the antiquated and convoluted form of government originated and sustained in Indiana since 1851. The Kernan-Shepard report focused on these issues and suggested a radical revamping of how we organize our local governments was in order. Unfortunately, our legislators, being rather overwhelmed and incapable of dealing with more than one crisis at a time, shoved this issue to the back burner. Because of the highly volatile and territorial issues surrounding the well-founded conclusions in the K-S report, it will necessitate that local Communities and Counties take control of their destinies and this a prime opportunity.

For us, an organization with a focus on multiple fronts including local government reorganization and efficiency, this is a no-brainer.....

Vote YES on the Referendum regarding the Center Township Assessor!

# Vote Smart! Vote Informed! Good Government Begins With You!

## COULD CITIZENS' EFFORTS TO REORGANIZE GOVERNMENT AND OVERSEE FISCAL ISSUES BE IN JEOPARDY?

### Your Vote Will Decide the Future of Muncie and Delaware County!

Through a petitioning effort by the CDCPTR in early 2008, Delaware County citizens enthusiastically informed city and county governments that they were supportive of an effort to seriously consider broad and sweeping reorganization. Such an effort would be to search for ways to increase government efficiency (and quality of service) and reduce costs through restructuring and consolidation of our many overlapping government functions.

Once the reorganization resolutions were passed by the Muncie Common Council and the Delaware County Commissioners, bipartisan appointments were made by Mayor Sharon McShurley and the County Commissioners. Rather than seasoned politicians being appointed to the Committee, the Mayor and County Commissioners sought to engage everyday citizens (freeholders) in this effort.

Mayor McShurley appointed three individuals Gary Addison, a retired Muncie schoolteacher; Eric Kelly, a Professor in the Department of Urban Planning at Ball State University; Jim Gooden, a long-time citizen activist. Dave Robertson (businessman), Valerie Alexander (Delaware County citizen), and Mike Whited (a Muncie firefighter and president of MFD Local #1348) were appointed, respectively, by County Commissioners Tom Bennington, John Brooke, and Larry Bledsoe.

While the above named individuals, engaged in government of the people, by the people, and for the people, have an opportunity to create a model of government for the rest of the state to follow, voters should be aware that members of

the reorganization committee serve "at the pleasure" of the appointing authority. What this means is that should composition of the County Commissioners become such that the majority is not supportive of this cause, the reorganization effort could be jeopardized to the extent that it could be dissolved.

At the same time, the CDCPTR successfully lobbied the County Council to reinstate the County Board of Tax Adjustment (TAB) to have final oversight of all county wide taxing units, and like the reorganization effort, this important 7 member board is comprised of 4 citizen freeholders and it's existence is annually subject to the will of the County Council. Some may remember that Delaware County previously had a TAB for several years that was ultimately politically assassinated in 2002.

At least one current candidate in the County Commissioner's race, **Donald Dunnuck**, the current attorney for the Delaware County Council, recently went far beyond his scope of responsibility as attorney for that group by asking questions, proffered observations, and openly **QUESTIONED THE EFFORT AND JUDGEMENT OF ABDICATING LOCAL FISCAL DECISIONS TO A BOARD OF ORDINARY TAXPAYERS!**

The County Board of Tax Adjustment or the Reorganization Committee's demise by "political abolishment" would have a devastating effect on the City of Muncie and Delaware County.

**The future is riding on your vote! The CDCPTR asks you to Vote Smart....Vote Informed!**

# The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Vote the Person! • Not the Party!

**Good Government Begins With You!**

Your Vote Can Be The Difference!

Does the candidate you are considering voting for support the reduction of local government inefficiencies and spending by the elimination or consolidation of multiple layers of bureaucracy?

Will the candidate you are considering electing maintain an office of transparency and accountability?

Do you believe the candidate that you support will continue to effectively respond to the public's inputs and concerns once he/she is elected?

Has your candidate of choice been forthright, fully disclosed their plans for this community and effectively answered your questions and concerns during the course of his/her campaign?

Will your candidate reject the practices of nepotism and cronyism and appoint only qualified individuals to departments and positions?

## Kernan-Shepard organization engages the CDCPTR in discussions on Government reform

The CDCPTR has recently been engaged with the statewide organization.....MySmartGov.org

The report from a panel of government and policy all-stars recommending dramatic changes in Indiana local government was sidelined last December when it hit an immovable object: property taxes.

Overhauling the state's property tax system overshadowed the 2008 General Assembly, leaving no time for a second major issue. But the report remains worthy of serious consideration, and a formidable group of advocates has coalesced to revive interest in the recommendations.

Some of the 27 recommendations of the Kernan-Shepard report include:

- Establish a single-person elected county chief executive.

- Establish a single legislative body for county government.

- Transfer the duties of the county auditor, treasurer, recorder, assessor, surveyor, sheriff and coroner to the county executive.

- Create a county wide body to oversee the provision of all public safety services.

- Consolidate emergency public safety dispatch by county or multicounty region.

- Transfer the responsibility for all funding of the state's trial court system to the state.

- Transfer the responsibility for administering the duties of township government to the county executive.

- Allow the City Council to appoint the city clerk in larger cities.

As the 2009 Indiana General Assembly reports back to work watch for much more on this issue.

## CDCPTR reinstates televised coverage of Muncie City Council Meetings!!

The CDCPTR surmounted ALL "excuses" for not broadcasting certain government meetings by sponsoring and locating resources to bring the City's video and sound equipment back on line and broadcasting the City Council's monthly meetings on the Public Access channel (channel 60).

The City Council meetings had historically been routinely televised, but for reasons yet to be revealed, the broadcasts had ceased for the past several years.

Consequently, public insight into the City Council's business was rendered to either personal attendance or local newspaper coverage that more often than not has fallen short of being comprehensive save and except occasional headline producing issues.

The current broadcast schedule provides for 3 airings per week:

Tuesday @ 1:00 pm  
Thursday @ 5:00 pm  
Sunday @ 9:30 pm

## Legal Chambers: TAB: Our final defense against local government spending?

As previously reported, the CDCPTR was instrumental in getting the Delaware County Board of Tax Adjustment, also known as the TAB, reinstated this past April.

Few probably know exactly what this board, consisting of 3 elected officials and 4 freeholders (non-elected citizens) is charged to do.

The TAB is organized under IC 6-1.1-29:

*Membership*

Sec. 1. Except as provided in section 9 of this chapter, each county shall have a county board of tax adjustment composed of seven (7) members. The members of the county board of tax adjustment shall be selected as follows:

(1) The county fiscal body shall appoint a member of the body to serve as a member of the county board of tax adjustment.

(2) Either the executive of the largest city in the county or a public official of any city in the county appointed by that executive shall serve as a member of the board. However, if there is no incorporated city in the county, the fiscal body of the largest incorporated town of the county shall appoint a member of the body to serve as a member of the county board of tax adjustment.

(3) The governing body of the school corporation, located entirely or partially within the county, which has the greatest taxable valuation of any school corporation of the county shall appoint a member of the governing body to serve as a member of the county board of tax adjustment.

(4) The remaining four (4) members of the county board of tax adjustment must be residents of the county and freeholders and shall be appointed by the board of commissioners of the county.

Once organized, the TAB executes its duties in accordance with IC 6-1.1-17-6:

Sec. 6. (a) The county board of tax adjustment shall review the budget, tax rate, and tax levy of each political subdivision filed with the county auditor under section 5 or 5.6 of this chapter. The board shall revise or reduce, but not increase, any budget, tax rate, or tax levy in order:

(1) to limit the tax rate to the maximum amount permitted under IC 6-1.1-18; and

(2) to limit the budget to the amount of revenue to be available in the ensuing budget year for the political subdivision.

(b) The county board of tax adjustment shall make a revision or reduction in a political subdivision's budget only with respect to the total

amounts budgeted for each office or department within each of the major budget classifications prescribed by the state board of accounts.

(c) When the county board of tax adjustment makes a revision or reduction in a budget, tax rate, or tax levy, it shall file with the county auditor a written order which indicates the action taken. If the board reduces the budget, it shall also indicate the reason for the reduction in the order. The chairman of the county board shall sign the order.

Take special note of the bold, underlined areas of the laws. The first thing of note is that the TAB is REQUIRED by law other than one exception we'll comment on later. The second and probably most important acknowledgment is the function and capacity of the Board. All county wide taxing unit's budgets must pass in front of this board and it has the unqualified authority consider revisions and reductions with regards to each budget. **And, yes, that includes the Library, the Schools, MITS and the Muncie Sanitary District!**

Got a problem with the \$300,000.00 of "blue sky" that the MCS threw into their budget for Tax Warrant interest?...file your objection with the TAB. Got an issue with the 2% across the board raises the county employees received while all the City employees held the line on their salaries?...let the TAB know. How about the 2.2% raises within the Sanitary District?...well... you now have a local and hopefully compassionate ear to bend.

**But here's the "kicker" folks....**


IC 6-1.1-29-9; County board of tax adjustment; procedures for abolishing; effect

Sec. 9. (a) **A county council may adopt an ordinance to abolish the county board of tax adjustment....**

So maybe the million dollar (literally) question is are we going to have a County Council next year that is taxpayer friendly to the extent of continuing to embrace this very important local budget supervision? Or will we repeat history only to see our future determined by the "Powers That Be" in Indianapolis.

The CDCPTR has worked really hard to get the TAB reinstated and therefore strongly believe in its potential benefit to our County and Communities. **We're asking you, the Voter, to look really hard as to who you're going to vote for in the County Council race and cast your vote for the candidates that will continue to support the County Board of Tax Adjustment's continued existence.**

# The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier


**CDCPTR'S 2008 MUNCIE/DEL. COUNTY BALLOT**

**PROPERTY TAX REPEAL**  
[www.propertytaxrepeal.com](http://www.propertytaxrepeal.com)

## CANDIDATE FORUM

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008**  
**STARTING AT 6:30 PM**  
**CONERSTONE CENTER FOR THE ARTS**  
**520 E. MAIN ST., MUNCIE, IN**

Indiana House Candidates

**District 33**  
 Bill Davis ● Andy Schemenaur

**District 34**  
 Dennis Tyler ● Ted Baker

**District 35**  
 Jack Lutz ● Lee Ann Mengelt

Delaware County Commissioners Candidates

**District One**                      **District Two**  
 Don Dunnuck ● Bob Wilson    Tom Bennington ● Todd Donati

Delaware County Council Candidates

**At Large (3 elected)**  
 Brad Bookout ● Joe Russell ● James King  
 Mel Botkin ● Kevin Nemyer ● Brad Razor

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

**CDCPTR's 2008 General Election Candidate Forum is scheduled for October 30, 2008 at the Cornerstone Center for the Arts!**  
**You won't want miss this one!**

Once again the Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal is hosting a Candidate Forum for the 2008 General Elections. Like last municipal elections of last Fall and the primary elections of this Spring, the CDCPTR will bring together the local political candidates for one final gathering before the voters decide upon the future officials elected to represent them.

In the same fashion of previous CDCPTR forums, moderator Larry Riley will be there to engage the candidates in comprehensive discussions specifically relevant to the difficult issues of our Communities, County and State.

ALL candidates on the November Ballot have been invited to attend and will be introduced and given an opportunity to speak to those in attendance even if they're not on the formal agenda. Hope to see you there!

## Elected Officials Scorecard

The voting and public positions of our elected public officials.

<b>Legend</b>	Property Tax Repeal	Constitutional Prop. Tax Caps	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	Favors Alt. taxes (LOIT)
Y = Yes, in favor													
N = No, not in favor													
- = Undecided..... (yet to demonstrate by vote)													
Sen. Sue Errington	N	N										-	Y
Rep. Bill Davis	Y	Y										-	N
Rep. Dennis Tyler	N	Y										-	Y
Rep. Jack Lutz	Y	Y										-	Y
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	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	-	Y	N	-
MC Cnc. Sam Marshall				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	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	Y	-
MC Cnc. Monte Murphy				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	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, 10/20/08 @ 6:30 pm: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Cowan Schools Building Cowan, Indiana	Tuesday, 11/25/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 10/28/08 @ 9:00 am: Delaware County Council Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Monday, 12/1/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 10/28/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN	Monday, 12/1/08 @ 7:30 pm: Muncie City Council Meeting <small>(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)</small> City Hall Courtroom Muncie City Hall
Monday, 11/3/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Tuesday, 12/9/08 @ 9:00 am: Delaware County Council Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN
Monday, 11/3/08 @ 7:30 pm: Muncie City Council Meeting <small>(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)</small> City Hall Courtroom Muncie City Hall	Tuesday, 12/9/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 11/11/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN	Monday, 12/15/08 @ 6:30 pm: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Albany Town Hall Albany, IN
Monday, 11/17/08 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Tuesday, 12/23/08 @ 6:30 pm: Muncie Schools Board Meeting MCS Administration Building 2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN
Tuesday, 11/25/08 @ 9:00 am: Delaware County Council Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN	Monday, 1/5/09 @ 9:30 am: Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting Commissioners Court, Room 309 County Building, Muncie, IN

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

**October/November, 2008**

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



The Delaware County  
**Taxpayer Crier**

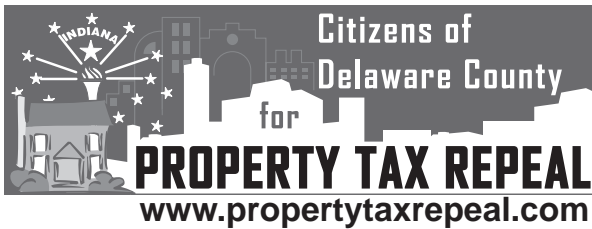


**HELP US HELP YOU!**

**October challenge:** Attend the CDCPTR Candidate Forum on  
October 30, 2008, 6:30 pm at the Cornerstone for the Arts!

**November challenge:** Vote for taxpayer friendly candidates!  
Vote Smart, Vote Informed! Vote for change in Delaware County!!

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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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:**

*"It does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless  
minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds"* –  
**Samuel Adams**

*"In a free society the state does not administer the affairs of  
men. It administers justice among men who conduct their own  
affairs...."* –  
**Walter Lippman**

*"Since a politician never believes what he says, he is quite  
surprised to be taken at his word."* –  
**Charles de Gaulle**

*"If ever a time should come, when vain and aspiring men shall  
possess the highest seats in Government, our country will stand  
in need of its experienced patriots to prevent its ruin."* –  
**Samuel Adams**

*"The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain  
occasions that I wish it to be always kept alive."* –  
**Thomas Jefferson**