

TAX MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 11, 2008, Issue #08-37, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
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1. TAX CAPS AND GAPS #2
2. COUNTY COUNCIL SURVEY
3. SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT
4. THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE
5. BLUES AT THE CROSSROADS
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REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

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

AUGUST 21, 2008 (#08-34)

- SUPPORT OUR COLLEGES – THEY SUPPORT US
 - Whether the students are on-campus, living at home, or taking classes online, they are still contributing monetarily to the university and the community. Those living on campus are supporting many local businesses.
- TOP TEN UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES OF PROPERTY TAX CAPS

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. TAX CAPS AND GAPS #2

It appears that many hours of dialog will occur during the 2009 Indiana legislative session concerning changing the Indiana constitution tax code whereby 1%, 2% and 3% caps on residential, residential rental (4 units) and commercial property respectively would become permanent.

The concept is acceptable but the gap between property types is too large. 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.

If the above doesn't happen should the definitions of property types be addressed? For example, why should a person pay 2% on a residential home that is lived in rent free by a elderly parent or a disabled child simply because the person is the owner instead of the parent or child?

The TA board of directors will be meeting Tuesday and this issue will be considered. Your input is respectfully requested.

2. COUNTY COUNCIL SURVEY

The County Council is working hard developing a balanced budget for 2009. They are seeking your input by way of a questionnaire on their web site. PLEASE do the survey (it only takes a few minutes) and let the County Council know we do not need any new or additional taxes.

Survey - <http://tax.vigocounty.org/tax/polls.html>

3. SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

I attended the COLTS / BEARS football game Sunday and was awed more by the Lucas Oil Stadium than the game. The stadium cost **\$750 million**.

The net assessed value of Vigo County (all **land and buildings** less exempted property) is **\$4.1 billion**.

The cost of Lucas Oil Stadium represents **18.3%** of the current trended AV of Vigo County. Something is wrong with this picture!

4. THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

In less than two months, we will vote for people for representation in government. We will also hear frequently about the Electoral College: the fact that we vote for electors who then vote for president, rather than vote for the president directly. But do you really understand how the Electoral College works? Did you know the history of the Electoral College and how it has determined our history? Here are two articles that thoroughly explain the Electoral College and arguments for and against it.

Wikipedia article - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S. Electoral College](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._Electoral_College)

William C. Kimberling article - <http://www.fec.gov/pdf/eleccoll.pdf>

5. BLUES AT THE CROSSROADS

This Friday and Saturday (Sept. 12 & 13), Blues at the Crossroads will take place in downtown Terre Haute. Seventeen bands will perform at the intersection of 7th and Wabash. This is a great opportunity to support entertainment in Terre Haute.

Fri., September 12 – 6PM-1AM

Sat., September 13 – 11AM-2AM

Gate Price - \$10.00

Kids Under 16 – Free

www.bluesatthecrossroads.com

6. 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. 15	5:30 pm	Human Relations Commission	Booker T. Washington Center	
Mon. Sep. 15	7:00 pm	Vigo County Public Library	Library – Main Branch	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Sep. 16	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Sep. 16	10:00 am	City Board of Sanitary Commissioners	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Sep. 16	12:00 pm	Taxpayers Association Board Meeting (please RSVP)	Taxpayers Office – 7 S Meadows Shopping Center	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Sep. 17	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Sep. 17	4:00 pm	City Redevelopment Commission	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Sep. 18	1:30 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
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	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	5:00 pm	County Council	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
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

END

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