

TAX MATTERS

OCTOBER 23, 2008, Issue #08-43, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.

7 S Meadows Shopping Center
(812) 235-1361 TAXTOPICS@AOL.COM fax (812) 234-0568

1. LOCAL PUBLIC QUESTION #1
2. HOB NOB – MEET THE CANDIDATES
3. PUBLIC MEETINGS

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

OCTOBER 16, 2008 (#08-42)

- BOARD OF HEALTH HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETING
- FISCAL IMPACT OF 2008 INDIANA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
 - The financial situation has changed drastically since this report was published. We will need to wait to see if revenue collections will remain as estimated. If not, what is the solution? - http://www.in.gov/sba/files/As_Passed_2008_Whole_Report_and_Letter.pdf

OCTOBER 9, 2008 (#08-41)

- BID SELECTION FOR HONEY HILLS / DALLAS ROAD SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT
- GOVERNMENT BAILOUTS – AN AMERICAN TRADITION
 - This is not the first time our government has bailed out our economy: <http://www.wsj.com/article/SB122186662036058787.html>

OCTOBER 2, 2008 (#08-40)

- PARKS DEPARTMENT SURVEY RESULTS
 - Follow Terre Haute Parks and Recreation Master Plan for a [graphical display of survey results](#) and the [raw data distribution](#)
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS – ARE YOU INVOLVED?
 - To give you a better overview of the good work the Terre Haute Neighborhood Partnership Steering Committee is doing, click [here](#) and read six pages of minutes from their September 23, 2008 meeting.

SEPTEMBER 25, 2008 (#08-39)

- NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION POSITION ON BAILOUTS
 - No more bailouts!
- MySmartGov.org
 - MySmartGov.org is a new grassroots organization that is trying to persuade the 2009 General Assembly to adopt the recommendations to streamline government made by the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform

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.

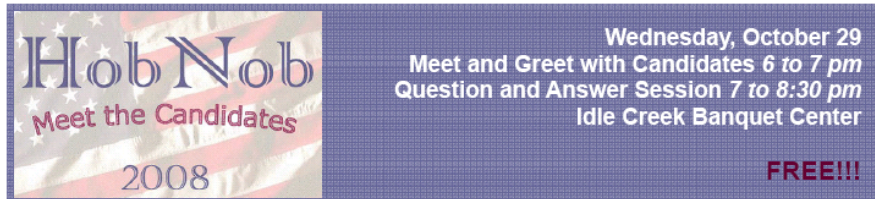
1. LOCAL PUBLIC QUESTION #1

During the past four years, I have taken the opportunity to promote the concept of UNIGOV on many occasions. I have not had a single objection for doing so from any member of the Taxpayers Association. The Kernan-Shepard report suggests simplified government throughout the state. The fact that voters in certain townships and counties have a choice in the matter is creating more confusion and future problems for the state. It is hard to believe that all of the townships involved will vote unanimously yes or no. I think the ultimate goal of this report was to have all 92 counties of the state of Indiana functioning with the same form or rules of government.

A review of the Taxpayers Association membership list reveals that a majority owns property and pay Harrison Township taxes but in fact live outside of Harrison Township. Thus, they do not get to vote on Public Question #1 on November forth. Also, there are significant numbers of registered Harrison township voters that do not pay Vigo County property taxes.

Although there are places in the state where assessments have been poorly done, I want anyone to show me specific examples of such in Vigo County. At this time I have been made aware of examples where tax statements are different but close examination reveals the properties being compared are in fact in different, but bordering, tax districts. This happens rightfully so because the townships have different levies due to the fact those public services are different. **This is the most serious problem that occurs with the TAX CAPS idea.** As the next Indiana assembly considers the tax cap concept and allows all of the voters in the state to decide the issue, they must first assure that a method is provided for services to be paid equitably and not have taxes due based on fair assessments and accompanied with unequal services. **Assessments, tax dollars due, and services must be comparable.**

2. HOB NOB – MEET THE CANDIDATES



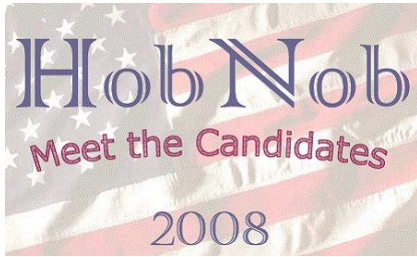
The banner features the text "HobNob Meet the Candidates 2008" on the left side, with "HobNob" in a large, stylized font and "Meet the Candidates" in a smaller font below it. The year "2008" is at the bottom. On the right side, the event details are listed: "Wednesday, October 29", "Meet and Greet with Candidates 6 to 7 pm", "Question and Answer Session 7 to 8:30 pm", and "Idle Creek Banquet Center". The word "FREE!!!" is written in red at the bottom right.

How well do you know the candidates running for office on November 4?



The banner has a dark red background with white text. At the top, it says "CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE" in a large, serif font. Below that, it lists the offices: "Vigo County Council At Large", "Vigo County Commissioner", "State Representative District 43", and "State Representative District 46". At the bottom, there is a paragraph of text: "All candidates will have equal time to respond to each question. The questions will be chosen by the organization committee made up of members of the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce, the Terre Haute Association of Realtors and the Terre Haute Home Builders Association."

HobNob: Meet the Candidates is an opportunity to learn more about the candidates you will be voting for on November 4, 2008. The event gathers the candidates for the upcoming election year in a casual and fun environment and provides members of the Terre Haute Association of Realtors, the Terre Haute Home Builders Association and the Terre Haute Chamber of Commerce the opportunity to interact one-on-one with the candidates.



HobNob Agenda Wednesday, October 29 6 to 8 pm

- 6 to 7p.m. Meet and Greet (Cash bar and snacks on tables)
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome/Review Guidelines: Rod Henry
- 7:05 p.m. Moderator: Gary Morris
- 7:10 p.m. State Representative District 43
- Gary Morris to "flip" a coin to determine who goes first
- Round #1: Candidate A to draw a question; 2 minute response
Candidate B – 2 minutes response
- Round #2: Candidate B to draw a question; 2 minute response
Candidate A – 2 minute response
- Round #3: Each candidate to have 1 minute for closing comments
Candidate A
Candidate B
- 7:25 p.m. State Representative District 46
- Gary Morris to "flip" a coin to determine who goes first
- Round #1: Candidate A to draw a question; 2 minute response
Candidate B – 2 minutes response
- Round #2: Candidate B to draw a question; 2 minute response
Candidate A – 2 minute response
- Round #3: Each candidate to have 1 minute for closing comments
Candidate A
Candidate B
- 7:40 pm Vigo County Commissioners
- Gary Morris to "flip" a coin to determine who goes first
- Round #1: Candidate A to draw a question; 2 minute response
Candidate B – 2 minutes response
- Round #2: Candidate B to draw a question; 2 minute response

Candidate A – 2 minute response

Round #3: Each candidate to have 1 minute for closing comments
Candidate A
Candidate B

7:55 p.m.

Vigo County Council

Gary Morris to pull names to determine order

Round #1: Dr. Behrs to pull question

Candidate A – 2 minute response
Candidate B – 2 minute response
Candidate C – 2 minute response
Candidate D – 2 minute response
Candidate E – 2 minute response
Candidate F – 2 minute response

Round #2: Dr. Behrs to pull question

Candidate F – 2 minute response
Candidate E – 2 minute response
Candidate D – 2 minute response
Candidate C – 2 minute response
Candidate B – 2 minute response
Candidate A – 2 minute response

Round #3: Closing Comments

Candidate A – 1 minute response
Candidate B – 1 minute response
Candidate C – 1 minute response
Candidate D – 1 minute response
Candidate E – 1 minute response
Candidate F – 1 minute response



Candidate Information State

- Candidates must be registered to participate prior to the start of the event at 6 pm.
- Candidates are asked not to debate, instead educate the audience on the questions and issues at hand.
- Candidates must follow the time regulations allotted by the moderator
- Candidates must respect the moderator and members of the audience
- Candidates may place information regarding their campaign on the allotted tables.
- Candidates should not place material on the tables where people will be sitting.
- Candidates must be prepared to answer the following questions...

Questions for State Representative

1. Explain to us how you feel the Indiana General Assembly should address the illegal immigration issue? Or should it?
 2. The Indiana General Assembly will be asked to pass a resolution to allow Hoosier voters to decide whether to change the Indiana Constitution and place differential caps on property taxes. 1% for residential, 2% for rentals and agriculture, 3% on business. Do you support or oppose this initiative and why?
 3. In looking at energy, do you see a role for nuclear power in Indiana? If no, why? If yes, what do we need to do to get the ball Rolling?
 4. What is your vision on how to improve graduation rates and the overall achievement level of K-12 education in Indiana?
 5. The bipartisan Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, commonly referred to as the Kernan-Shepard Commission, proposed 27 recommendations to modernize local government operations. What is your opinion of this initiative and will you be an advocate for leaving things alone, or adopting measures to modernize operations and procedures?
- You will have the opportunity to answer two questions, which will be chosen randomly. It is important that you come prepared to answer any of the five questions.



Candidate Information Local

- Candidates must be registered to participate prior to the start of the event at 6 pm.
- Candidates are asked not to debate, instead educate the audience on the questions and issues at hand.
- Candidates must follow the time regulations allotted by the moderator
- Candidates must respect the moderator and members of the audience
- Candidates may place information regarding their campaign on the allotted tables.
- Candidates should not place material on the tables where people will be sitting.
- Candidates must be prepared to answer the following questions...

Questions for County Commissioners/County Council

1. How do you propose balancing the Vigo County budget in 2010?
2. The Economic Development Income Tax was approved for “economic development” purposes. How do you feel these funds should be used in the future?
3. What are your plans to consolidate local government services to save money, reduce duplication, and improve services?
4. Look into your crystal ball. Where will Vigo County be in the year 2013 if you are elected?

You will be given one minute for closing comments at the end.

- You will have the opportunity to answer two questions, which will be chosen randomly. It is important that you come prepared to answer any of the four questions.

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. Oct. 27	2:00 pm	Board of Public Works and Safety	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Oct. 27	4:00 pm	County Park Board	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Oct. 27	7:00 pm	Vigo County School Board	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Oct. 28	9:00 am	County Commissioners	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Oct. 28	5:00 pm	County Council	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Oct. 29	6:00 pm	City Council – Special Call	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Nov. 3	6:30 pm	Local Emergency Planning Committee	Library – Main Branch	Jon 232-5411
Mon. Nov. 3	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Nov. 4	4:30 pm	Honey Creek Conservancy District	3241 S. 3 rd Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Nov. 5	9:00 am	City Board of Zoning Appeals	City Hall – 1 st Floor Conf. Room	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Nov. 5	7:00 pm	County Area Planning Commission	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Nov. 6	7:00 pm	City Council – Sunshine Meeting	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Nov. 10	2:00 pm	Board of Public Works and Safety	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Nov. 10	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Nov. 10	7:00 pm	Vigo County School Board	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Wed. Nov. 12	10:00 am	Area Board of Zoning Appeals	County Annex	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Nov. 12	4:30 pm	City Park Board – General Meeting	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Nov. 12	7:00 pm	Airport Authority	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Nov. 13	7:00 pm	City Council – Regular Meeting	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Tue. Nov. 18	12:00 pm	Taxpayers Association Board Meeting (Lunch provided by THBC)	Terre Haute Bowling Center	Bernard 235-1361

END

Disclaimer: This message is intended for the use of the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this information is strictly prohibited. Erroneous transmission or receipt of the information contained herein shall not constitute a waiver of any applicable privilege. If you have received this document by error, please notify us immediately and destroy the related message.