

TAX MATTERS

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2009, Issue #09-35, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director
Taxpayers Association of Vigo County, Inc.**

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

- 1. I-FILE SURVEY**
- 2. FREE TAX TOPICS ADS**
- 3. TAX NOTES**
- 4. PUBLIC MEETINGS**
- 5. TAX QUOTE OF THE WEEK**

REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS

AUGUST 27, 2009 (#09-34)

- **BUDGETS PROPOSAL**
 - Recently the City Council, County Council and Vigo County School Corporation have released proposed budgets for the year 2010. We have all these budgets available at the TA office if you are interested in looking at them.
- **CITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION**
 - The complete 15-page possible ordinance establishing a city historic preservation commission is available at <http://www.taxtopics.org/go-10-09historicpreservationord.pdf>. The proposal will be discussed at the Area Planning Commission meeting next month.

AUGUST 20, 2009 (#09-33)

- **I-69: DEAD OR ALIVE? – US 41/I-70 COULD STILL BE**
 - The Hoosier Environmental Council's view that the Interstate 69 alternative route that uses existing roads is still possible
- **WASHINGTON ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL RELOCATION**
 - The many responses to an article concerning the Vigo County School Board proposal to relocate the Washington Alternative High School to Terre Haute South were negative
- **CAPS AGAIN**
 - There are a few problems being discussed which could be addressed if a local caps forum were to happen

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. I-FILE SURVEY

I-File is an electronic way to file state taxes online. The Indiana Department of Revenue conducted a survey to gauge the response of those using the I-File system. 2,796 people responded to the survey. With a three-percent margin of error, the results found that:

- 48% of the users were between 36-55 years old
- 46% of the users' main reason to use I-File was to file their tax returns for free. 37% said they liked the ease of electronic filing the most.
- 85% were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with I-File
- 85% were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with the maneuvering of the I-File system
- 93% were either "very likely" or "likely" to use I-File again, and 90% were at least likely to recommend I-File to someone else

Due to heavier traffic on April 15, I-File experienced some problems on Tax Day. Despite this, among the taxpayers who used the program that day:

- 56% were either "very satisfied" or "satisfied" with I-File
- 81% were either "very likely" or "likely" to use I-File again

The complete results of the survey are available at the Taxpayers Association office.

2. FREE TAX TOPICS ADS

The following members will have a free ad in the September 21 issue of TAX TOPICS. If you want to promote your business here, please send a business card (or landscape-format ad) to us before September 14, 2009.

ADT	Garmon Construction Services	Southland Center
Affordable Digital Hearing	Hannum, Wagle & Cline Engineering	Spence/Banks, Inc.
Baesler's	Home Builders Association	Stadler and Company
Dawg Leg Restaurant	Jones & Sons	Sunrise Maintenance
Dillion Real Estate	JR Pharmacy	Tabco
Earl Rodgers & Associates, Inc.	Meadows Shopping Center	Terre Haute Bowling Center
Ferguson's Accounting and Tax Service	Vince Milnes, CFP	Terre Haute Savings Bank
Fireplace World	Saratoga Bar & Café	James R. Wiesneth, Attorney at Law
Flooring America	Sign Express	

3. TAX NOTES

The Indiana Chamber of Commerce releases an email periodically called "Tax Notes" that gives briefs on tax and public finance matters on the state and federal levels. It is produced by Bill Waltz, the Chamber's Vice President of Taxation and Public Finance. The following were among the articles that were published in the September 2009 issue of "Tax Notes:"

Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy Given Plenty to Study

Indiana's state legislature assigned a healthy and varied list of items for the Commission on State Tax and Financing Policy (CSTFP) to examine this interim. Specifically, the CSTFP is charged with studying:

- whether local income taxes are being properly and fairly allocated;
- whether taxpayers receive adequate opportunity to participate in the local budget-making process;
- when local governments should be allowed to hire private attorneys to appeal a tax case;
- the advisability of reassessing a percentage of all the properties in a county each year instead of having a general reassessment of all property in the same year;
- recommendations from the Department of Local Government Finance on improving the timelines for property tax administration;
- tax policies for logistics providers and warehouse/distribution in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin;
- how to fund Indiana's growing community college system;
- the practice of credit card companies raising interest rates and changing terms on non-delinquent accounts, and determining what authority a state has to regulate these practices;
- the effect of the sales tax treatment of car purchase discounts; and
- the taxation of retirement benefits, and military pay and benefits.

The subjects are numerous and the time frame is short due to the special session. Although agendas have not yet been posted, the CSTFP has scheduled four meetings - September 21, September 22, October 5 and October 13. Specific agendas for the meetings will be posted on [IndianaNet](#), the Chamber's legislative services web site (subscription required), when details become available. The Indiana Chamber will be working with commission members on several of the above items and will keep you posted regarding their progress.

Department of Local Government Finance Cleaning Up Rules

In July, the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) posted a notice of intent to adopt new rules regarding the practice of annually adjusting assessments and the taxation of personal property. These two notices are the first step in the formal rule promulgation process. In the coming months, the DLGF will post the text of a proposed rule (online via the *Indiana Register*), receive further comments, conduct a public hearing and ultimately adopt a final rule. The annual adjustment rules govern the procedures assessors must follow and the factors they apply to assessments each year to reflect market valuation changes (aka trending). The trending process is technical and complicated - too much so, say some observers. The DLGF currently has a draft rule on its web site that is mostly for cleanup and clarification. The agency is looking to combine the existing rule on equalization (50 IAC 14) and the existing rule on annual adjustments (50 IAC 21) into a single rule - a recommendation of the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute back in 2005. The draft rule will also define "sales chasing" and specifically prohibit that practice.

[Read full story](#)

Indiana Tax Seminar

Mark your calendars for the **2009 Indiana Tax Seminar** on October 27 at the Indiana Chamber Conference Center in downtown Indianapolis. Presented by numerous tax law experts, attending this important conference will help you remain apprised of both Indiana and federal tax law changes.

[Register online](#), or contact Lisa at (800) 824-6885.

4. 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. **Organizations that are underlined have a web page that can be accessed by clicking on their respective hyperlinks.** 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
Thur. Sep. 3	6:00 pm	<u>City Council – Special Call</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Thur. Sep. 3	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Tue. Sep. 8	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Sep. 8	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Tue. Sep. 8	7:00 pm	Seelyville Town Board	Seelyville Water Office	Tamara 877-2665
Wed. Sep. 9	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – General Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Sep. 9	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Thur. Sep. 10	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Regular Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Mon. Sep. 14	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Sep. 14	6:00 pm	West Terre Haute Town Board	500 W. Nat'l, WTH	Melody 533-2034
Mon. Sep. 14	6:30 pm	Riley Town Board	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Mon. Sep. 14	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Sep. 15	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Sep. 15	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 rd Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Sep. 15	12:00 noon	Taxpayers Association Board Meeting	Terre Haute Savings Bank (533 Ohio St.)	Bernard 235-1361
Wed. Sep. 16	9:30 am	Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Sep. 16	10:00 am	<u>County Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Sep. 16	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Thur. Sep. 17	2:00 pm	Tree Advisory Board	City Hall Mayor's Conf. Room	Jennifer 232-4028
Mon. Sep. 21	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Mon. Sep. 21	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Public Library</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Nancy 232-1113
Tue. Sep. 22	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Sep. 22	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Sep. 23	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Sep. 23	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 st Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Sep. 23	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524

5. TAX QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“A person doesn't know how much he has to be thankful for until he has to pay taxes on it.”

- Author Unknown

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.