

## **TAX MATTERS**

**OCTOBER 15, 2009, Issue #09-41, by Bernard Ridens, Executive Director  
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### **REVIEW OF PAST TAX MATTERS**

**OCTOBER 8, 2009 (#09-40)**

- **NATIONAL SURVEY ON THE IRS AND THE GRADUATED INCOME TAX**
  - I need your input on whether the nation should go to an alternative tax system or whether the nation should keep the current income tax system, as is
- **HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION**
  - An overview from the Terre Haute Human Relations Commission Annual Report

**OCTOBER 1, 2009 (#09-39)**

- **THIRTY-YEAR SALARY COMPARISON**
  - Salaries of local public officials in 1979 and 2009
- **CITY PARKS ON FACEBOOK**
  - The Terre Haute Parks Department has setup a Facebook account to promote the Park's general information to the public.

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 (#09-38)**

- **TAX TOPICS**
  - You can find the newest Tax Topics at <http://www.taxtopics.org/TaxTopicsFall2009HQ.pdf>
- **THE BLUEBERRY STORY**
  - An account from public speaker Jamie Vollmer

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2009 (#09-37)**

- **TAX TOPICS**
  - The next issue of Tax Topics will be sent by e-mail and will be available on our website, [www.taxtopics.org](http://www.taxtopics.org). Free paper copies of the Fall 2009 Tax Topics issue are only available by request. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

The Taxpayers Association is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) 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. BENNETT AIMS TO IMPROVE MATH EDUCATION

According to the 2009 National Assessment of Educational Progress, Indiana fourth and eighth graders outscored the national average in mathematics, but the results have shown little improvement from previous years. Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Tony Bennett says, "While I'm proud our students' NAEP performance exceeds the national average, average isn't good enough for our kids. Bold and rapid reform is the only way to tip the balance in favor of Hoosier children."

Inside INdiana Business article:

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/newsitem.asp?id=38189>

### My reaction

Once again I must express an opinion on NCLB, ISTEP, and specifically, the requirement that algebra is required for graduation. Experience has taught me that the low-achieving students cannot pass this subject. I continue to believe we should determine the aptitude of children at the youngest possible age and develop these talents instead of wasting over \$100,000 on each and every one of them trying to teach them to jump a hurdle that is too high. Here is the 2009 item sampler for Algebra I: [http://www.doe.in.gov/eca/pdf/Sample\\_Items\\_Spring\\_2009\\_4-16.pdf](http://www.doe.in.gov/eca/pdf/Sample_Items_Spring_2009_4-16.pdf). See if you believe all of our students can do half of these problems.

Your feedback on this item is seriously sought and needed.

## 2. TAXING SERVICES COULD YIELD INDIANA \$6.8 BILLION

The non-partisan Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute released a new study exploring the ramifications of expanding the state's sales tax to include services. According to the IFPI study, Indiana could raise as much as another \$6.76 billion annually if it extended its sales tax to include all service transactions. Even if Indiana exempted medical and legal services, Indiana could raise almost \$4.5 billion from an expanded sales tax, according to IFPI.

Full article here:

<http://www.indianaeconomicdigest.net/main.asp?SectionID=31&SubSectionID=119&ArticleID=50396>

### 3. 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.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Public Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Info</b>
Mon. Oct. 19	5:30 pm	<u>Human Relations Commission</u>	Booker T. Washington Center	Jeff 232-0110
Tue. Oct. 20	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Oct. 20	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Oct. 20	5:00 pm	<u>County Council – Emergency Meeting for H1N1 Vaccine</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Oct. 21	9:30 am	<u>Clay-Owen-Vigo Solid Waste District</u>	109 E. Nat'l, Brazil IN	Janet 800-387-3380
Wed. Oct. 21	4:00 pm	<u>City Redevelopment Commission</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Phenny 232-0018
Wed. Oct. 21	5:00 pm	<u>Vigo County Board of Health</u>	County Annex	Louise 462-3428
Thur. Oct. 22	4:15 pm	<u>Vigo County Redevelopment Commission</u>	County Annex	Amanda 234-2524
Mon. Oct. 26	2:00 pm	<u>Board of Public Works and Safety</u>	City Hall – Board of Public Works Room	Robin 232-4767
Mon. Oct. 26	4:00 pm	<u>County Park Board</u>	County Annex	Julia 462-3391
Mon. Oct. 26	5:30 pm	<u>Terre Haute Housing Authority</u>	2001 N. 19 <sup>th</sup> Street	Jeff 232-1381
Mon. Oct. 26	7:00 pm	<u>Vigo County School Board</u>	VCSC Board Room	Judy 462-4216
Tue. Oct. 27	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Oct. 27	5:00 pm	<u>County Council</u>	County Annex	Auditor 462-3361
Wed. Oct. 28	4:30 pm	<u>City Park Board – Business Meeting</u>	Deming Park	Eddie 232-2727
Wed. Oct. 28	5:30 pm	<u>Information Technology Advisory Board</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor	Brad 244-2316
Wed. Oct. 28	7:00 pm	<u>Airport Authority</u>	Airport	Kara 877-2524
Mon. Nov. 2	6:30 pm	<u>Local Emergency Planning Committee</u>	Vigo County Public Library	Jon 232-5411
Mon. Nov. 2	6:30 pm	<u>Riley Town Board</u>	Riley Town Hall	Wanda 894-2410
Tue. Nov. 3	9:00 am	<u>County Commissioners</u>	County Annex	Judy 462-3367
Tue. Nov. 3	10:00 am	<u>City Board of Sanitary Commissioners</u>	City Hall – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor	Sally 235-5458
Tue. Nov. 3	4:30 pm	<u>Honey Creek Conservancy District</u>	3241 S. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Craig 232-4311
Wed. Nov. 4	9:00 am	<u>City Board of Zoning Appeals</u>	City Hall – 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conf. Room	Judy 462-3367
Wed. Nov. 4	7:00 pm	<u>County Area Planning Commission</u>	County Annex	Vickie 462-3354
Thur. Nov. 5	7:00 pm	<u>City Council – Sunshine Meeting</u>	City Hall – Courtroom	Michelle 232-3375
Tue. Nov. 17	12:00 noon	<u>Taxpayers Association Board Meeting</u>	Terre Haute Bowling Center, 600 E. Springfield Dr.	Bernard 235-1361

#### 4. TAX QUESTIONS 4 U

Here is a tax-related question for you to answer and compete for most questions answered correctly during a three-month period. The purpose of this topic is to encourage readership of *Tax Matters* and improve taxation and government education in our community. Send your answers anytime to the following email address: [taxquestions4U@aol.com](mailto:taxquestions4U@aol.com). We will tally the correct answers and the correct answer will be given next week.

The problem this week requires a little research of recent publications of the Taxpayers Association:

Given: A property in Harrison Township  
2008 Assessed Value: \$175,000  
Mortgage Exemption: \$3,000  
Homestead: 45,000 (no other exemption)  
0.5 acre a lot

Find the annual tax due and payable 2009.

Last week's answers: a) 24 cents b) approximately \$1.01

#### 5. TAX QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to get the most feathers with the least hissing."*

*- Jean Baptist Colbert, attributed*

**END**

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