

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier



Hear Ye, Hear Ye....

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Delaware County Council approves County Board of Tax Adjustment

On April 1, 2008, in a special meeting called by Delaware County Council President Brad Bookout, the Council passed by a 4:3 vote a motion to re-establish the Tax Adjustment Board. Dissenting votes were cast by Council members Ted Bowman, Mary Chambers, and Chris Matchett.

Legislation included in the new property tax bill allows for the County Board of Tax Adjustment to play a significant role in overseeing spending. The TAB will be charged with review, possible revision and reduction of the budget, tax rate, and tax levy of each political subdivision filed with the county auditor.

It was with foresight that the CDCPTR began requesting the County Council to reinstate the County Board of Tax Adjustment three months prior. On March 25th, the ordinance required to reinstate the TAB was introduced, and that resulted in a favorable 4:3 vote. However, a motion to suspend the rules so as to adopt the ordinance failed for lack of unanimous vote. The dissenting votes were cast, in both instances, by County Council members Ted Bowman, Chris Matchett, and Mary Chambers. Following the failed vote, Brad Bookout, acting in the best interest of taxpayers, resisted partisan pressures and called for the special meeting.

There was, by some elected officials (Chris Matchett, to name one), outward resistance to the appointment of citizens to the Board. However, it is essential to realize that the County Board of Tax Adjustment will be in a position to make economic decisions that

individual political subdivisions often will not, leading to improved efficiency of the local taxing unit. Such judgments can be made by the Board without undue influence of special interest groups. In the pursuit of greater transparency and accountability in local government, citizen input might help defuse possible adversarial deadlocks and allow for greater nonpartisan participation. Most importantly, the County Board of Tax Adjustment can be a constant reminder that it's the peoples' money, NOT the government's.

One only has to recall a past Center Township Trustee who managed to hoard in excess of \$5 million to understand the necessity of this Board's function. That very discovery was a revelation of a previous County Board of Tax Adjustment. The Board's ultimate demise by "political abolishment" could very well have been driven by the fact that certain political entities ultimately grew paranoid of that kind of "oversight" and saw to its elimination when the opportunity presented itself.

Appointments to the County Board of Tax Adjustment were completed April 8. Those members are:

Brad Bookout
Sharon McShurley
Kevin Smith
Cecil Bohanon
Teresa Clemons
Doug Eckerty
Jeanine Lee Lake

A CDCPTR taxpayer badge of honor and courage goes out to **Brad Bookout** for standing firm on his resolve to responsibly serve the citizens and taxpayers - C.A. Bouslog

County Commissioners sell-out taxpayers in favor of "special interest" CCW appointments

Total costs of local government meddling estimated at \$180,000.00 to \$200,000.00!
BSU squanders another \$300k!

Involved in a lineup of four different Common Construction Wage Hearings held on February 28, 2008 was the age-old and very unfortunate Delaware County practice of stacking the hearings with special interest and illegal appointments.

Even after this very same issue was publicly exposed last Fall by the CDCPTR in their efforts to resist the budgeting, spending and squandering of tax dollars by the Muncie Community Schools, our County Commissioners heeded not and moved forth with "business as usual" in an arrogant demonstration of fiscal irresponsibility. All this being square in the face of historic revenue shortfalls for every taxing district in the entire County.

The hearings on that day involved a City of Muncie paving project; a Muncie Redevelopment Commission demolition of the old Muncie Star Press building; a Ball State University multiple-pronged project primarily consisting of parking and paving; and a Delta Middle School electrical and mechanical HVAC project in the Delaware Community School Corporation.

All of the hearings were convened under IC 5-16-7, the law governing the Common Construction Wage setting of any public projects in excess of \$150,000.00. Involved in the process, the Delaware County Commissioners, as the County Legislative Body, are responsible for one of the TAXPAYER appointments in each of the hearings. Of the Commissioners' appointments, two were legal appointments, two were illegal appointments and ALL FOUR were "special interest"

appointments catering to a very narrow niche of construction workers in Delaware County representing the highest possible wage scale that could be assigned to the work.

The end result of all this pandering was a premium price tag on to our public projects on that day that amounted to nearly a half million dollars before they were even published to bid. To the extent that attaching those wage scales to the projects prohibited, or at minimum inhibited, competitive local bidding will probably never be known.

It's important to note that the "owners" of three of the four projects, the City of Muncie, the Muncie Redevelopment Commission and the Delaware Community School Corporation all had two appointments of their own to each of their respective hearings that were taxpayer friendly and fiscally responsible. In all instances, those representatives voted for more reasonable, more conservative and rightfully more accurate wage scales representative of the area. Their wishes were defeated by individuals that are not from the taxing area or even from the County and will never pay one red cent of their income or taxes towards the costs they ultimately mandated.

At the Ball State University hearing, the effort to obligate and spend as many tax dollars as possible appeared to be the major concern. All appointments whether being the Governor's, Organized Labor or Ball State's acted insulted at the thought of considering a wage scale that would result in substantial savings. Go figure.....

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Let the Modernization Begin!

Several months ago, the Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal (CDCPTR) asked the Delaware County Commissioners to prepare a plan to consolidate county services to reduce costs. The commissioners initially resisted the request to initiate the effort themselves but suggested that the CDCPTR lead the effort by soliciting petition signatures to demonstrate countywide support. Of course the rest is history. "Petition Patriots" went door to door and even to the grocery store to gather signatures. In fact the CDCPTR volunteers worked the mall, restaurants, churches and sporting events, to get signatures on the petitions. Many of the signatures came from friends and family, but many more came from complete strangers.

Owing to those efforts, over twenty-one hundred signatures of City and County voters were collected and submitted to both the City and County legislative bodies. A hearty thank you is deserved by all of the "Petition Patriots" who sacrificed their time to collect signatures. A round of thanks is also in order for the citizens of Muncie and Delaware County who enthusiastically signed on in support of the CDCPTR effort. And last but not least, thanks are in order for both the County Commissioners and the City Council who

unanimously voted to voluntarily move on the effort requested by the Reorganization Petitions.

The tireless sacrifices of our volunteers, the enthusiastic support of our fellow citizens, and the cooperation of our County Commissioners and City Council, demonstrate that Muncie and Delaware County may be down, but we are certainly not out. The city of Muncie and Delaware County as a whole are now positioned to make historical progress and lead all other Indiana Counties in the effort to modernize, improve efficiency and cut costs while minimizing the negative impact to services. We have taken the difficult first steps with the petitions and with the respective votes. Now we must take the critical second step to form the consolidation committees mandated by both the Reorganization Petitions and by the parallel resolutions made by the County Commissioners and City Council. We know that the modernization and reorganization effort will take careful consideration and research. We know it will take time, and we know it won't be easy, but we also know that this unified and bipartisan effort to cut costs is necessary for the financial survival and economic viability of our communities.

Let the Reorganization and Modernization begin!

- Jim Arnold

Taking Government to the People

Brad Polk, newly elected to the Muncie City Council representing District 4, has joined forces to bring government to the people. His first District 4 Quarterly Meeting with Polk was held Monday, March 31, 2008, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at Kennedy Library on McGalliard Road, Muncie. Future meetings will be held at the same time and location on a quarterly basis on the last Monday in June, September, and December.

Attendance at the first meeting included Parks Superintendent Doug Zook, Personnel Director Wayne Huffman, Council persons Allison Quirk and Linda Gregory, Community Development Director Connie Gregory and Building Commissioner Jerry Friend. Said Polk, "The meetings are

informational and a great way for residents to find out what I (as their elected representative for District 4) have been doing for them, and what I am going to do for them in the future." There will also be a question-and-answer period for citizen concerns.

Breakfast with Gregory sessions continue the Saturday before each City Council meeting. The upcoming City Council meeting agenda is discussed, and attendees are encouraged to participate in a question and answer session regarding citizen concerns. The next Breakfast with Gregory will be held from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on May 3, 2008, at Mac's Restaurant, 2323 South Madison Street, Muncie, Indiana.
- C.A. Bouslog

Legal Chambers: New Property Tax Law: More smoke and mirrors?

I took a road trip to Indy the other day to watch the signing of the Indiana Property Tax Reform legislation. It was a nice photo op for our governor and top legislators, and a chance for me and some friends to watch history in the making, but I don't intend to pack up my Property Tax Protester tent and go home just yet. The property tax reform legislation signed into law on 03/19/2008 was merely the first SMALL step in the long journey to permanent property tax repeal.

We won a small battle on temporary property tax reduction with the mandatory tax caps, but we lost a battle with time when the Indiana General Assembly FAILED to provide the citizens of Indiana a referendum opportunity for permanent property tax repeal. The back room machinations that allowed the bill for permanent tax repeal to wither on the vine without a vote will extend the time to permanent property tax repeal by at least another two years.

It is perplexing that property tax reform which was heralded as the top priority of our legislators did not come to fruition until the final day of the short session but not surprising that our politicians made a concerted effort to appease the "voting numbers" of the citizenry in time for the fall elections. They have provided immediate additional "renter deductions" to those voter/citizens that rent, and homeowners will see increased homestead exemptions for 2007 pay 2008 that are promised to lower their tax burden by up to 38%. The residential caps will be set at 1.5% in 2008 pay 2009 and then 1% in 2009 pay 2010. Owners of rental/commercial property will see no reductions in 2007 pay 2008, then the caps will be set at 2.5% for 2008 pay 2009 and 2% for 2009 pay 2010.

The bad news is the earliest that the state constitution can be amended to permanently cap homeowners' bills is Jan 1, 2012, but we can rest assured that the 1% increase of our sales tax from six to seven percent effective April 1, is here to stay. I am against raising sales taxes before permanently capping or eliminating property taxes, since

property taxes have a proven track record of rising to new heights over time, and sales taxes once raised never return to their lower rate. The problem with the property tax caps is that they are all relevant to the assessed valuation of the property, and past experience has proven that we can't trust our current system to arrive at accurate or fair assessed values.

Another shortcoming of the new property tax legislation is that referendums on capital projects have been severely compromised. The referendum thresholds for schools have been set at \$10 million for elementary through middle school and \$20 million for high schools. The loophole is that the recent \$55 million Muncie Community Schools Rehabilitation combined multiple projects that could have easily been divided into unique projects to circumvent the new thresholds. The remonstrance process is still an option for projects not subject to referendums, but the complicated and convoluted nature of the remonstrance process limits its use. The property tax caps still restrict project costs and the encumbrance of future debt and leases, but local tax levies could be implemented in some communities to fund the projects and future debt. The same remains true of the \$12 million threshold (or 1% of total Appraised Value) on other non-school public projects.

All in all the Property Tax Bill was a small step forward for Indiana tax payers and a success for the General Assembly. The major shortcoming of this short legislative session was the failure by the Indiana General Assembly to provide the citizens of Indiana a referendum opportunity for total property tax repeal. This sin of omission by our legislators extends the time to property tax repeal at least another 2 years, at best. I suggest that within that time frame we take advantage of the opportunity to elect representatives that will support the effort for permanent property tax repeal without qualification or special interest influence.

- Jim Arnold

The Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal needs your help! We have ongoing expenses such as this newsletter that need economic support. Please consider a donation. We have an ongoing need to update our email database for contacting you with important information. Please send us an email through our website and ask to have you email updated. And, we have a consistent need for volunteers to work the polls and support taxpayer friendly candidates. Please consider your support!

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

2008 Delaware County Primary Ballot Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Those candidates with a **BOX** around their name have associated biographical and **taxpayer friendly** platform comments on the following page. We are highlighting **CONTESTED RACES ONLY**. Other non-contested candidates may be taxpayer friendly as well and we will address their platforms at a later date.

President of the USA

Democrat: Hillary Clinton Barack Obama	Republican: John McCain Ron Paul
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Governor of Indiana

Democrat: Jim Schellinger Jill Long Thompson	Republican: Mitch Daniels
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IN House of Representatives

District 33

Democrat: Andy Schemenaur	Republican: Bill Davis
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District 34

Democrat: Dennis Tyler	Republican: Ted Baker Gilbert Lumsey
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District 35

Democrat: Lee Ann Mengelt	Republican: Jack Lutz
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Delaware County Commissioners

District 1

Democrat: Beverly Bilbrey John Brooke	Republican: Bob Wilson
Donald Dunnuck	

District 2

Democrat: Kenneth Davenport Todd Donati	Republican: Tom Bennington
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Delaware County Council

At-Large - Vote for three (3)	
Democrat: Brad Bookout Jeff Ellison James King Terry Moore Kevin Nemyer DeWayne Richmond	Republican: Mel Botkin Jason Haney Brad Razor Joe Russell

Delaware County Treasurer

Democrat: John Dorer	Republican: Steve Fields
	Conrad Urban Matt Wagley

Delaware County Surveyor

Democrat: John Kelley	Republican: Richard Thornburg
	Bobby Watters

Delaware Circuit Court 3

Democrat: Joe Orick Linda Ralu Wolf	Republican: Judi Calhoun Mark Delgado
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Delaware Circuit Court 4

Democrat: Diane Frye	Republican: John Feick
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Delaware Circuit Court 5

Democrat: Thomas Cannon Jr. Kimberly Dowling	Republican: Chris Teagle
Ron Henderson	

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Ted Baker - B.S in Business Marketing from BSU, co-founder of Worldwide Technologies, LLC, Operations Manager for American Design and Engineering Co., Inc., Tour Manager for Ray Boltz, past business instructor at Indiana Business College, currently Assistant Regional Director associated with Ivy Tech Community College as a business counselor as well as owner of two Sport Clips Haircut facilities in Muncie and Fishers, Indiana. Married 28 years with 4 adult children. I believe in the value of the family unit. I will continue the pursuit of additional property tax reform. I will find ways to reduce government waste and consolidate services. I am sadden by Muncie's job loss and will work hard to promote the strengths of our community. Our educational tax dollars need to be put back where they are needed - in the classroom! I pledge to serve and make decisions that will serve the best interests of District 34 and Indiana.

John Brooke - John and wife, Sue have 3 children. A graduate of Cowan, BSU and IU, John is an attorney of 24 years licensed to practice in Indiana and a multitude of Federal Courts throughout the U.S. as well as legal counsel for several governmental units. Currently, John serves as the President of the Delaware County Commissioners and proudly touts its many major accomplishments while serving the same. Those include consolidations of Emergency Management and 911 Dispatch, the Highway Dept. and the Engineering Dept., changes in the EMS billing, as well as personnel reductions resulting in a saving of \$2.5 million annually. Additionally, John has been directly involved in efforts to consolidate services and costs with the Townships and has instituted many interlocal agreements to establish working and consolidated relationships with a broad spectrum of countywide governmental entities. John notes that he is the only commissioner that does not have a vehicle, mileage or cell phone paid by the taxpayers. Please visit John's website for all the details on his accomplishments at: www.brookeforcommissioner.com.

Bradley Bookout - Brad is a Delaware County native and a graduate of BSU with a BA in Political Science. He has advanced his political studies at Harvard University. Married to wife, Lisa, together they have 3 sons. Brad is a Master Homebuilder of the HAHB and owns and operates Bookout Builders. Brad is currently President of the County Council, receiving bi-partisan unanimous support in that capacity for two years running. Brad believes that being honest and

running county government like a business is critical to its success or failure. Notable accomplishments have included avoiding county budget increases, creation of the Local Tax Adjustment Board and opposition to Local Income Taxes. Brad feels improvements could still be made to addressing the loss of population, jobs, tax base, neglected roads, infrastructure and most importantly controlling the taxation of Delaware County residents. Brad welcomes any suggestions, concerns and ideas for good government in Delaware County.

Mel Botkin - Has taught school in the Muncie school system for 36 years, refereed high school basketball for 38 years and owns and operates Botkin Trophies since 1962. Mel is proud of the 4 years he's served on the County Council where he's been involved in the effort to lower taxes and improve county government efficiency. Mel most recently chaired the committee to address the longevity plan for the county employees where 5 different and varied plans were condensed into one comprehensive and cost saving plan.

Jason Haney - A graduate of Wapahani High School and a US Army veteran, Jason is married to Kalyn and has a 2 year old son. Jason owns and operates Haney Property Preservation. He is an energetic 28 year old with an optimistic spirit to see things through to completion. "It's time to stand together as citizens and government facing hard issues and finding long lasting solutions to ensure a better tomorrow." His political desires came about as he saw what the foreclosure market, lack of jobs and excessive taxation had on the typical family. He wants go further down the road of efficiency. Jason will "not be afraid to do the hard things that may be unpopular if I know it is the right thing to do for the taxpayers and the county. We can definitely cut spending without sacrificing services." Jason indicates he is running as a fellow citizen, NOT a politician. You can contact him at haneyforcountycouncil@gmail.com.

Brad Razor - B.S in Accounting from BSU, Councilman-At-Large 1984-88, auto sales for 23 years and real estate business for 13 years. Current board member of the Muncie Civic Center and have served with the United Way, Chamber of Commerce an Rotary Club. We need to find ways to consolidate and shrink county government to work within reasonable revenues. We need to resist the temptation to raise local income taxes an at all times place a magnifying glass on all county taxing unit budgets.

Joe Russell - Joe is a Muncie native, graduate of Delta High School and Purdue University, with a degree in civil engineering. Joe farms with his dad and two sons and operates a seed and farm consulting business. Joe is married to Sharon and they have three children and one precious granddaughter. A current county councilman, including three years as president of the council. Joe is proud of his leadership that has kept the county general fund expenditures trending downward. Joe is currently serving on the finance committee, personnel committee and economic development committees. His voting record shows his commitment to downsize the number of employees and spending of local government. High priorities include discovering opportunities to deliver services more efficiently and affordably to the citizens of Delaware County. Joe is committed to lowering property taxes; responsible, affordable and ethical government; and making this county a great place to live, work and raise a family!

Conrad Urban - Conrad and wife Judy, a Central graduate, former nurse practitioner, and published author, have eight children and 18 grandchildren. Conrad is a local property investor who has worked with Muncie Community Development in providing affordable housing for limited-income families. A Notre Dame graduate with work experience in budgeting and operations of a multi-million dollar business where he was instrumental in implementing a computerized payroll system. Conrad gained government and political insight during a recent six-year stint with Indiana's Family Social Services. Conrad will work very hard to facilitate necessary change and constituent awareness as well as build on the many positive attributes of our community.

Bobby Watters - I am currently a local Realtor, served as the District 1 Councilman on the Delaware County Council from 2002 to 2006 and was a candidate for the Delaware County Auditor in 2006. I desire to continue in public service and am committed to keeping the job description of the County Surveyor up to date and fulfilling the responsibilities of the office in a professional manner. I want to treat everyone with respect. "Equal rights for all and special privileges for none," can and will be my motto.

Judi Calhoun - Has 13 years as a both a private attorney handling civil law matters such as divorce, child custody, visitation, child support and as a Deputy Prosecutor handling criminal felony cases, including rape,

armed robbery, forgery, theft, drug dealing and murder cases. During my career, I have spoken to many of our citizens including clients, victims, families of victims and jurors regarding the frustration in dealing with the legal system. As your Circuit Court #3 Judge, I promise that all citizens of Delaware County will be treated fairly and with respect. As a Delaware County property owner, I would expect nothing less from those elected to office.

Mark Delgado - Practices both civil and criminal law in Delaware county and is a Captain in the Indiana National Guard. The tax burden on Delaware County citizens is of great concern. As Judge of Delaware Circuit Court 3, I pledge to operate the courts in a manner which is both efficient and effective. I believe that those convicted of any crime should be held accountable for their actions, but non-violent offenders should serve their sentence per the sentencing guidelines. As Judge, I will look into private facilities, such as Volunteers of America, where inmates will pay for their own incarceration. I will have an open door policy and will be receptive to new ideas and will value input from others at all times.

Thomas Cannon Jr. - I have practiced law in Delaware County for 34 years and have extensive experience in all of the areas of the law involved in the types of cases litigated in Circuit Court No. 5. I also have over 22 years of judicial experience having served as the appointed Juvenile Referee. As a taxpayer and having been involved in the successful operation of a small business law partnership, I understand the importance of carefully overseeing the court's budget and personnel to assure fiscal responsibility. All citizens who have reason to be involved in our court system should be treated civilly, patiently and fairly. I believe that all judicial decisions must be made independently and impartially.

Kimberly Dowling - Graduated 1984 from University of Colorado Law School. 1985 awarded Indiana Bar and Northern and Southern United States District Courts privileges. 23 years as Judge Pro-Tem appointed by Democrat and Republican Judges. Delaware County Deputy Prosecutor, trying all types of cases. Has published and unpublished Appellate Decisions. Self described as "open minded, unbiased and extremely independent". Has a set of goals, several of which are a "program for supervised parental visitation" and "parenting time" training coordinator to protect children in divorces.

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

2008 Delaware County School Board Ballot Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Those candidates with a **BOX** around their name have associated biographical and taxpayer friendly platform comments on the following page. We are highlighting **CONTESTED RACES ONLY**. Not voting for Democrat or Republican? Remember, you can vote just for the school board only!!

Muncie Community School Board

Vote for three (3)

Phil Grice
Beverly Kelley
Michael Long
Tom Parker
Kevin Smith
Pam Spoonemore
Beth Turcotte
Tim Wilson

Monroe Township School Board

Vote for two (2)

John Hamilton
Kimberlie Miller O'Conner
Michael VanHorn
Steven Westfall

Delaware Community School Board

At-Large (Vote for one (1))

Jerry Brooks
Devona Coffey
Tyce Stebbins

Hamilton Township (Vote for one (1))

Norbert Heban II

Mt. Pleasant Township Community School Board

Vote for two (2)

Catherine Alexander
Mike Blanch
Larry Godwin
Roger Maulier II
Steven Smith
Stephen Wickliffe

Daleville Community School Board

Vote for three (3)

Kip Corn
Joseph Kaelin
Vickie Reese

Harrison-Washington Community School Board

Harrison Township (Vote for one (1))

Robert Colter

Washington Township (Vote for one (1))

Steve Dowling

Liberty-Perry Community School Board

Liberty Township (Vote for one (1))

Ryan Stanley
Carey Youngblood

Perry Township (Vote for one (1))

Charles McPherson
Edward Hunter

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Michael Long - A life-long resident of Muncie and graduate of Muncie Central High School. Service to Muncie Community Schools includes four years (still serving) as PTO President at Longfellow Elementary, 4th year on Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council and has devoted countless hours as a volunteer. Believes in empowering parents with the necessary tools to help their children succeed and in responsible budgeting and spending, parent and community involvement.

Tom Parker - Tom is a life long resident of Muncie and attended Muncie Schools and BSU. Tom and his wife, Tammy, are partners in a local business, F.C.Tucker/Five Star Real Estate. They have 3 sons, 2 of which are still attending Muncie schools. Tom and Tammy are very involved in the PTO and booster clubs and attend every school event that involves their sons. Tom is a founding member of CDCPTR and has been attending MCS Board meetings for the last year. Tom supports a uniform appearance for students, staff, and faculty. He is for consolidation of services, staff, and facilities in and throughout Delaware County when and where feasible. Tom also supports allowing more public input at MCS Board meetings. Tom will strive to have a better relationship with the MTA as well as with teachers that are not members of MTA. He will try to find equitable ways to evaluate teachers and reward those that are deserving, while providing incentives for all teachers to achieve more. Tom feels that teachers are the most important link in the education chain and wants to help them to be more effective. Tom will bring much needed common sense to the Muncie Community School Board of Trustees.

Tim Wilson - Married to wife, Roxanne, for 26 years. They have two sons, both of which graduated from the Muncie school system. Tim has been a member of the Southside Band Boosters for the past 8 years and the President for the last 2 years. Has an AAS Degree in Information Technology from IVY Tech State College. Tim works for Keystone Consulting developing and supporting existing computer payroll and budget programs for cities, towns and schools. Tim's biggest goal would to bring fiscal responsibility to the Board. They are spending \$30,000.00 on a search for a new Superintendent and we have two licensed Superintendent's already working for the corporation. Why not utilize who we have and combine responsibilities thereby saving money in the long run. We need to cut and consolidate

where possible. I will push for the consolidation of schools and that is a touchy subject with everyone. This should have been considered before \$55 million was spent on school construction. We cannot expect a shrinking tax base to continue to foot the bill for the outward expansion of a decreasing student population. A solid education at the K-12 level is the stepping stone to becoming a success. Not all kids are destined to go to college. We still have an ongoing need for the career center as well as providing advanced placement classes to those students that need them and want them. The most important thing a school board member can do is to ensure that the kids have the right environment to learn and the teachers have the right tools to teach.

Jerry L. Brooks Candidate for Del Com School Board At Large. Married to Jill Brooks, we have 3 boys in the Del Com School System. I am a Ball State University graduate with a bachelors degree in business management and a self employed business owner for 18 years. I will bring common sense and conservative values to the School Board. This is necessary due to the upcoming changes in the budget, because of property tax reform. Please feel free to contact me at jlb8170@hotmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Mike Blanch - Retired after 40 years at Borg Warner, Mike is married with 3 adult children. He currently farms nearly a 1000 acres and has been very active in the political and educational fronts of the Mt. Pleasant area. Local government and school cost containment is a high priority of his. Most recently, Mike led the effort in the successful remonstration against the \$29 million Mt. Pleasant building proposal that would have raised the Mt. Pleasant school district's taxes nearly 30%. Mike carries some serious concerns about the academic achievement levels in local and Indiana schools and is a firm believer that brick and mortar does not necessarily translate into a quality education.

Steve Wickliffe - Married to wife, Krista with 3 school-age children in the Mt. Pleasant schools. Steve has a BA in Accounting, a MA in Education, a Vocational Teaching Endorsement and a Business Education Teaching License. Has taught for over 15 years with 10 at Yorktown High school. Steve believes the actions of the school board should be above ethical reproach. His actions will be guided by what is best for students as well as being financially responsible for all taxpayers. "We

don't improve education by building new buildings or gymnasiums." Smaller class sizes and enriched student and teacher resources are keys to a good education. Steve feels the school corporation's vision should be a collective effort with input from all members of the Yorktown Community. Fell free to discuss any issues, concerns or his candidacy by contacting him at 765-215-8308 or swickliffe@yahoo.com.

Carey Youngblood - Is a lifelong resident of the Selma area. Carey and his wife, Patricia have 2 adult children that both attended the Liberty-Perry schools. Carey makes a living as a toolmaker for GM. Carey decided to get involved and run for school board because there appeared to be a serious lack of other interested candidates and the fear that the taxpaying citizens might not be fairly represented with an appointment by the school

corporation and therefore threw his hat into the ring. An important note about Carey is that he feels very strongly about fiscal responsibility in the schools to the extent that he was very involved in the successful remonstrance against the Liberty-Perry building project this past year.

Ed Hunter Sr. - I am running to represent Perry Township on the Liberty-Perry School Board. I have been a Perry Township resident for 37 years with children who have graduated from Wapahani High School and grandchildren who are in the Selma elementary & middle school. I have been with Otis Elevator for 43 years and I am acquainted with building procedures. I believe we need a quality school board which helps train our students to be future leaders without sending you to the poorhouse by way of outrageous increases in our property taxes.



CDCPTR Community Update Open to the Public

The Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal have initiated a new effort to reach out to the citizens countywide with a series of informational outreach meetings being held in the rural areas of the County. We have been hard at work trying to become more aware, informed and involved in all aspects of local government actions that affect us locally. Do you want to know more? Do you want to get involved? We look forward to seeing you there and would like to hear your comments and concerns. The first two are already scheduled for the northern half of Delaware County and will be held on Saturday mornings. Mark the dates.....

Saturday, April 26th, Delta High School, Room 130, 9:00 am.....

Hear more details about HB1001, the Property Tax Reform bill that was recently voted into law, and hear more about what CDCPTR has been up to lately. Representative Bill Davis will be in attendance to help sort out the new legislation.

Saturday, May 3rd, Mill Street Inn, Gaston IN, 9:00 am.....

Hear more details about HB1001, the Property Tax Reform bill that was recently voted into law, and hear more about what CDCPTR has been up to lately. Representative Jack Lutz will be in attendance to help sort out the new legislation.

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Muncie Community Schools:

The deft art of fleecing the Muncie Taxpayers

Part 3 of a 3 part series:

In part three we take a look at how the Muncie Community Schools purposefully try and avoid public oversight and feedback. This is obviously critical to a taxing entity to conduct business and spend tax dollars with minimal taxpayer obstruction.

The arena where the ongoing and future operations of the Muncie Schools are exposed to public scrutiny is at the MCS Board of Trustees meetings that are held twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of any given month. This is a public meeting held in accordance with Indiana Open Meeting Law, IC 5-14-1.5.

For the most part, local government meetings in some abstract form or another follow a public meeting decorum as outlined in what is referred to as "Roberts Rules of Order". The MCS Board of Trustees, through their By-laws specifically acknowledge and adopt Roberts Rules as the guiding procedure for their meetings. For those

that routinely attend government public meetings, we also know that they almost unanimously provide for some period of public input, generally reserved at the very end of the meetings. Save and except, of course, the MCS.

With the MCS Board, there is generally 2 periods of public interaction, one very early in the meeting and one somewhere about 2/3 into the meeting agenda. During these periods of public input, citizens are put on a strict timer of 3 minutes that, when the buzzer goes off, so does their comments as they are abruptly and somewhat rudely shut down. It becomes obvious to those that regularly attend the MCS Board meetings that this public input "timing" in the agenda is purposefully manipulated so as to put certain sensitive and potentially "explosive" issues behind and beyond public comment and participation. Most recent typical examples would be the recent reports of the MCS operations and shortcomings as

well as Dr. Creasy's resignation.

Another "strategic maneuver" that the School Board utilizes specifically on items of contention is the use of manipulating their agenda for purposes of addressing and/or rebutting issues that have previously been raised. A good example of this would be when the CDCPTR took up with the MCS Board of Trustees the issue of the Board Members being elected in the Primary elections as opposed to the Fall general elections where all other elected offices are chosen. The MCS Board referred the issue to their attorney, Bill Hughes, who was "conveniently" placed formally on the agenda of the following meeting and subsequently was allowed an unlimited amount of time to address the issue. In this particular instance, there was a public comment period following Mr. Hughes presentation, but the strictly held 3 minute time limit nullified any attempts by the CDCPTR to effectively rebut Mr.

Hughes' remarks.

Where most other government meetings seem to (and rightfully should) welcome and embrace public participation, the stoic and parliamentary MCS Board meetings make obviously premeditated efforts to minimize or even shun it. More often than not, when speaking to the MCS Board, the speaker is generally just stared at with no acknowledgment of what is being spoken to. It's as if they are tolerating an uninvited intrusion into their orchestrated gameplan for a brief three minutes and then they pick right back up right where they left off.

The marked contrast of the MCS School Board Meetings can be best demonstrated simply by attending many of the other local government meetings. Should one want to experience a proactive, interactive and very pleasant School Board Meeting, might I suggest the Del-Com School Board. It's like a breath of fresh Spring air.

Elected Officials Scorecard

The voting and public positions of our elected public officials.

		Legend														
		Y = Yes, in favor	N = No, not in favor	- = Undecided..... (yet to demonstrate by vote)	Property Tax Repeal	Cap. Proj. Referendums	County Consolidations	City Consolidations	City/Co. Consolidations	Dept. Consolidations	Personnel Reductions	Privatization of Svcs	Tax Abatement	T/A Non-compliance Penalty	Forced Annexation	Allied with Spc. Interests
Sen. Sue Errington		N	N												-	
Rep. Bill Davis		Y	N											N		
Rep. Dennis Tyler		N	N											Y		
Rep. Jack Lutz		N	N											N		
DC Cms. John Brooke				N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y			
DC Cms. Tom Bennington				N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y			
DC Cms. Larry Bledsoe				N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	Y			
DC Cnc. Brad Bookout				Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N			
DC Cnc. Joe Russell				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	-			
DC Cnc. Ron Quakenbush				Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N			
DC Cnc. Mary Chambers				N	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				N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	-			
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,4/21/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Daleville Town Hall
Daleville, Indiana | Tuesday, 5/27/08 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie, IN |
| Tuesday, 4/22/08 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie, IN | Tuesday, 5/27/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN |
| Tuesday, 4/22/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
West View Elementary School
3401 W. Gilbert, Muncie, IN | Monday,6/2/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie, IN |
| Monday,5/5/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie, IN | Monday, 6/2/08 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall |
| Monday, 5/5/08 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall | Tuesday, 6/10/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN |
| Tuesday, 5/6/08 @ 9:00 am:
2008 Primary Elections
Elect Taxpayer Friendly Candidates!!
(Please see our included ballot) | Monday,6/16/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Selma Town Hall
Selma, Indiana |
| Tuesday, 5/13/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN | Tuesday, 6/24/08 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie, IN |
| Monday,5/19/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie, IN | Tuesday, 6/24/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN |

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

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier



April/May, 2008
**Committed to educating the taxpaying and
voting citizens of Delaware County for the betterment
of government, community and reduced taxes.**

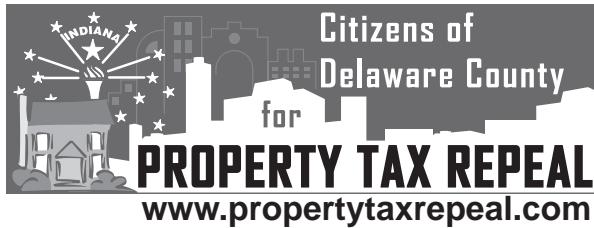
HELP US HELP YOU!

April challenge: Attend MCS School Board Candidate Forum:
April 30, 2008 @ 6:30 pm!

May challenge: Vote for the Taxpayer Friendly Candidates!
Primary Election - May 6, 2008

If your name is "Current Resident", please
update your information with the CDCPTR!!

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 165
MUNCIE, INDIANA



The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier is published bi-monthly 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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Memorable Quotes:

"If a person buys a cheeseburger at a restaurant, they've paid the tax that funds the project....." –

Kenneth Boucher, Indiana Department of Labor Representative (Governor's Appointment) rebutting Chris Hiatt's objection to the County Commissioners' appointment of AFL/CIO Business Agent Duane Harty regarding the Muncie Redevelopment Commission's TIF-funded demolition project.

"When we're elected, we need to act like Democrats....." –
Donald Dunnuck, longtime Democrat Party insider and Delaware County Commissioner District One candidate when speaking out against Democrats that "follow their own (or maybe their constituents?) dictates".

"Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.....Have you ever wondered why, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, we have deficits? Have you ever wondered why, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, we have inflation and high taxes?..." –

Charley Reese, Syndicated Columnist



**CDCPTR'S 2008
PRIMARY ELECTION
MUNCIE COMMUNITY
SCHOOL BOARD
CANDIDATE FORUM**

www.propertytaxrepeal.com

MUNCIE COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATE FORUM

MODERATED BY LARRY RILEY

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2008
STARTING AT 6:30 PM**

**WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
3100 S. TILLOTSON AVE., MUNCIE, IN**

NEARLY 40% OF YOUR TAXES GO TO SCHOOLS!!
NOT VOTING DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN? REMEMBER, YOU CAN VOTE FOR THE SCHOOL BOARD RACES ONLY!

Muncie Community School Board Candidates



**Phil Grice
Beverly Kelley
Michael Long
Tom Parker
Kevin Smith
Pam Spoonemore
Beth Turcotte
Tim Wilson**



**For more information call 765-881-0183 or logon to:
www.propertytaxrepeal.com**



Citizens of
Delaware County

for

PROPERTY TAX REPEAL

www.propertytaxrepeal.com

**CDCPTR'S
"4-CORNERS"
COMMUNITY
UPDATE**

CITIZENS OF DELAWARE COUNTY FOR PROPERTY TAX REPEAL COMMUNITY UPDATE



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

THE CDCPTR HAS BEEN HARD AT WORK BECOMING MORE AWARE, INFORMED AND INVOLVED IN ALL ASPECTS OF LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT AND ISSUES THAT AFFECT ALL OF US. COME HEAR MORE DETAILS ABOUT HB1001, THE PROPERTY TAX REFORM LEGISLATION THAT WAS RECENTLY VOTED INTO LAW. INDIANA HOUSE DISTRICT 33 REPRESENTATIVE, BILL DAVIS, WILL BE IN ATTENDENCE TO HELP SORT OUT THE NEW LEGISLATION. IN ADDITION, HEAR MORE ABOUT WHAT EFFORTS THE CDCPTR HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON LATELY.

DO YOU WANT TO STAY INFORMED? DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND CONCERNs.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008
STARTING AT 9:00 AM**

**DELTA HIGH SCHOOL - ROOM 130
EAST STATE ROAD 28, MUNCIE, IN**

**GUEST SPEAKER: BILL DAVIS
INDIANA HOUSE DISTRICT 33 REPRESENTATIVE**

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DO YOU WANT TO STAY INFORMED? DO YOU WANT TO GET INVOLVED? WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE AND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR COMMENTS AND CONCERNs.

**SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2008
STARTING AT 9:00 AM**

**MILL STREET INN
200 S. MAIN, GASTON, IN**

**GUEST SPEAKER: JACK LUTZ
INDIANA HOUSE DISTRICT 35 REPRESENTATIVE**

For more information call 765-881-0183 or logon to:
www.propertytaxrepeal.com