



Hear Ye, Hear Ye....

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Where have all the choices gone?

One of the more common comments that one hears in times of political strife and other election related issues is the fact that the candidate pools and ballot selections are weak and do not contain really "qualified" or varied choices.

This past general election of November was a prime example of not only voter apathy but overall public apathy relevant to citizens stepping up to run for an elected office. Could our embarrassingly low turnout at the polls be directly tied to the fact that the voting public has had no viable choices? Sounds very logical. Let's look at some facts:

On the Muncie City ballot alone, 40% of the elected offices were uncontested. On the Yorktown ballot, 20% were uncontested and on the Eaton ballot 83% were uncontested! Is there really any wonder why people aren't inspired to get out to vote?

It begs the question, is this in fact a political strategy? Do political parties make a concerted effort to keep voter interests at a minimum? As a vested community of people, can we afford to allow our political processes to become so diluted by unqualified officials that we can no longer run our government efficiently?

Here's the rundown on what it takes to become a candidate for the various elected offices:

School Board: Live in the school district and get 10 signatures on a petition supporting your candidacy for a school board position. File your candidacy with the County Clerk within the period January 23, 2008 through noon, February 22, 2008.

Other elected offices: If your intent is to file a candidacy for an elected office either as a Democrat or a Republican, file your candidacy with the County Clerk within the period January 23, 2008 through noon, February 22, 2008. The party with which you file will be determined by the party for which you voted in the last Primary Election.

For individuals wanting to file a candidacy on the Independent ticket and for those wanting to be considered for appointment for filling a vacant candidate slot on either the Democrat or Republican ticket after the Primary Elections, there are some more slightly convoluted processes that need to be completed by noon on June 30, 2008. Call a CDCPTR representative for an explanation and additional information.

For the sake of this community and its future, if you're a citizen with no political baggage, someone who could bring a breath of fresh air and are open-minded to new and creative ideas, please think seriously about a run for an elected seat. We don't care if you're Republican, Democrat, Independent or Libertarian. Our heartfelt concerns lie only with our fellow citizens and futures.

The CDCPTR is available to help each and every individual who would be willing to throw their hat into the ring with guidance and support in getting legally registered as a candidate. We cannot economically assist, sponsor, or endorse candidates, but can assist in finding those resources. All one needs to do is contact a CDCPTR representative through the website at: www.propertytaxrepeal.com or call: 765-881-0183.

CDCPTR moves for County and City governments to enact IC 36-1.5 legislation

Supported by Petitions, CDCPTR urges County and City governments to approve resolutions for modernization/reorganization at next meetings:

County Commissioners 1/28/08 @ 9:30 am

County Commissioners 2/4/08 @ 9:30 am

Muncie City Council on 2/4/08 @ 7:30 pm

EVERYONE NEEDS TO ATTEND THESE MEETINGS!

Delaware County and Muncie City governments could be on the verge of historic legislation that will initiate local government modernization and reorganization under IC 36-1.5.

Following the Delaware County Commissioners' request to see demonstrated public support for local County government reorganization, the CDCPTR organized a petition drive under IC 36-1.5-11. Thousands of signatures later, the CDCPTR has successfully proven such support and is now urging the County Commissioners to move forward with the legislation necessary to begin the processes of Delaware County reorganization.

As well as demonstrating the public support with a large stack of signed petitions at the Commissioner's meeting of January 7, 2008, the CDCPTR also submitted to the Delaware County Commissioners a template resolution to consider adopting.

As it stands right now, there is the indication of a resolution being introduced at the County Commissioners' meeting on January 28, 2008. If successfully introduced and adopted by vote, the ball could very well be rolling toward a modernized, cost

effective, and more responsive Delaware County. If introduced and tabled for consideration, it will be the Commissioners' meeting of February 4, 2008, before the adoption vote takes place.

At the same time, the Muncie City Council has been requested to initiate a modernization effort of its own. At the City Council meeting of January 7, 2008, the CDCPTR delivered, as promised, another demonstration of enormous public support, by presenting yet another impressive group of petitions directed toward moving the City reorganization effort forward.

As with the County, the CDCPTR also submitted a resolution with its presentation and requested that it be put on the agenda of the next City Council meeting of February 4, 2008 for introduction and possible adoption.

To accommodate what may be a record attendance at the next Muncie City Council meeting, the CDCPTR has requested that the Council consider moving their meeting of February 4, 2008 to the Central High School auditorium. Please plan on attending this very important meeting!

Muncie Council Makes News and YouTube!

As the old saying goes..."You just had to have been there"...as the Muncie City Council of January 7, 2008 was abruptly brought to a halt by Council President Sam Marshall after citizens voiced criticism of the Council and requested an investigation of Councilman Monte Murphy and his alledged involvment in voter fraud.

Councilman Marshall even tried to have a speaker forcefully removed by MPD Sgt. Linda Cook, who stood her ground and allowed the First Amendment to prevail.

A guest column in *Legal Chambers* details the legal and ethical issues of what transpired.

The law and the YouTube video links can be found at: www.propertytaxrepeal.com

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier



Breakfast with Gregory a big hit!

About 25 Muncie citizens representing 7-8 neighborhoods throughout the city attended the first Breakfast with Gregory held Saturday, January 5, 2008, at Mac's on South Madison Street. The tradition of pre-city council meeting get-togethers was initiated by John Rust, carried on for a limited time by Allison Quirk, and now have been re-initiated by Linda Gregory, newly installed Muncie city councilperson.

Council meeting agenda items were discussed. As well, attendees were encouraged to participate in a question and answer session regarding citizen concerns.

Breakfast with Gregory sessions are held the Saturday BEFORE City Council Meetings (which are scheduled for the first Monday of each month). The next meeting, scheduled for February 2, 2008, will start at

Statehouse Rally on February 1st

On Friday, February 1, 2008 at 12:00 pm, Noon, there will be a statewide Rally at the Indiana Statehouse in Indianapolis.

The Indiana Property Tax Repeal Alliance, of which the CDCPTR is a member, is organizing the event.

Car pools of Muncie and Anderson citizens planning on

attending this Rally will begin staging at Hiatt Printing at 9:30 am and the Pilot Truck Stop at I69 and SR67 at 10:00 am respectfully, on Friday morning.

This presents a prime opportunity to "get in the face" of our Legislators who are determining our future. We encourage all that can go, to consider participating.

9 a.m., and also will be held at Mac's Restaurant (2323 South Madison Street, Muncie, Indiana). However, plans are being made to move the meetings to another location in the future to host larger numbers of participants. This is YOUR opportunity to participate in local government at the grass roots level. If you have issues which you wish addressed by government, or if you desire to be brought up to date as to what is going on in local government... this is the place for you. You have a voice...let's hear it.

Citizens of Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal representatives will be there with government modernization/reorganization materials as well as other information to help bring positive changes to this city and county. Voter registration forms will also be available.

- C.A. Bouslog

Legal Chambers: Caught on YouTube: assault on free speech

- Guest column by: Professor Warren Watson, a veteran journalist, teaches journalism at Ball State University, where he directs J-Ideas, Ball State's First Amendment institute.

The Bill of Rights, the legacy of our Founding Fathers, ran smack dab into cyberspace the other night in Muncie.

The culprit: the First Amendment. The surprising venue: YouTube, the popular video-sharing site. The result: an ongoing debate about political speech in the Muncie City Council and allegations that local lawmakers trampled on the First Amendment rights of a well-meaning citizen.

In the world of free speech, local retailer Cary Malchow found that what you say and do can now play out on the worldwide video stage called YouTube.

You see, Malchow attempted to address the council near the end of its Jan. 7 meeting. Calm and resolute, Malchow was following a council protocol that allows residents to speak for up to three minutes.

Malchow made the mistake -- or so it seems -- of asking the council to investigate council member Monte Murphy about allegations of voter fraud. Barely into his remarks, council President Sam Marshall moved to cut him off. When Malchow tried to continue, Marshall asked a police officer to have him removed.

Things then got interesting. The officer refused to oust Malchow. The crowd at the meeting began chanting, "Let him speak. Let him speak." So much for decorum.

"Despicable is what I call it," said Gene Williams, the executive editor of Muncie's Star Press. "Attempting to throttle free speech is against the basic tenets of the country. Free speech isn't always pretty and it's often painful, but it's what separates us from other countries."

Enter YouTube. Muncie resident Dana Reif was shooting footage of the ruckus, and quickly posted to the video site. In 72 hours, his footage had more than 5,000 hits.

Malchow remains nonplussed about the incident, saying he was only acting on his free speech rights. He told Indianapolis television station WRTV: "The council might have gotten a little scared."

Not much is coming from Muncie officials except for the

prerequisite "no comments" and referrals to attorneys. But two First Amendment experts said that Malchow's rights were violated.

Shawn Healy, First Amendment scholar at the McCormick Tribune Freedom Museum in Chicago, said that Muncie City Council President Marshall "should be reprimanded" for wielding a heavy gavel.

"It seems as if Malchow clearly had his First Amendment rights violated," Healy said. "Political speech is afforded the highest threshold of free speech protection, and the nuances of parliamentary procedure should not be used to stamp out statements by concerned citizens about important local issues. The council president should be reprimanded for his actions."

He added, "Malchow's voice should be heard by the government and citizens of Muncie."

Gene Policinski, executive director of the First Amendment Center in Nashville, Tenn., agrees with Healy, noting that many local political bodies are -- unfortunately -- attempting to put rules around public debate. He said, "This is not an uncommon circumstance. Councils are trying to deal with decorum everywhere. But you can cross the line pretty fast."

He said the Muncie council was too hasty: "What happened here was a violation of the spirit of the First Amendment if not the letter of the First Amendment -- and done under the guise of political correctness. Governmental bodies have to pass a 'reasonableness' test. And what happened to this citizen was not reasonable."

The Muncie City Council next meets on Feb. 4. And Williams said the episode isn't over yet: "That's why I worry about the next council meeting. Many, many more people will be on hand and we'll see how their speech is handled."

"YouTube?" said Williams. "Proves that the game has changed. In years past, you could stick your foot in your mouth and few people would know about it. These days, you put your foot in your mouth, the whole world sees it."

The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier

Muncie Community Schools: The deft art of fleecing the Muncie Taxpayers

Part 2 of a 3 part series:

In part one we summarized our flurry of organized resistance on several fiscal battlegrounds relative to the Muncie Community School Corporation. While involved in the processes of discovery and preparation for these efforts, many disturbing facts revealed themselves.

During the DLGF Hearing held on October 18, 2007, the issue of the Common Construction Wage Agreement associated with the MCS \$55 million renovations projects was entered into evidence as a prime example of how our valuable tax dollars are wasted by the Muncie Community Schools.

IC 5-16-7-1, which is the law that provides for the Common Construction Wage Committee and its subsequent agreements is very specific about its appointments to the committee. IC 5-16-7-1 (b) specifically states "the awarding governmental agency, before advertising for the contract, shall set up a committee

of five (5) persons as follows:

(1) One (1) person representing labor, to be named by the president of the state federation of labor.

(2) One (1) person representing industry, to be named by the awarding agency.

(3) A third member to be named by the governor.

(4) One (1) taxpayer who pays the tax that will be the funding source for the project and resides in the county where the project is located. The owner of the project shall make the appointment under this subdivision.

(5) One (1) taxpayer who pays the tax that will be the funding source for the project and resides in the county where the project is located. The legislative body (as defined in IC 36-1-2-9) for the county where the project is located shall make the appointment under this subdivision." The two taxpayer appointments obviously being a purposeful effort of the law to insure taxpaying public oversight and

input.

In the case of the CCW associated with the MCS projects, the three local appointments controlled by either the MCS (2) or the County Commissioners (1) were as follows:

MCS Industry Appointment:
William Reiter

MCS Director of Operations

MCS Taxpayer Appointment:
Mark Burkhardt

MCS Associate Superintendent

Co.Comm.Taxpayer Appointment:
Jack E. Neal, Jr.

AFL/CIO, Business Agent

Does this look like a panel of appointments that's going to be the "eyes & ears" of the taxpaying public and fairly represent our fiscal interests? Of special note, Mr. Neal, who is supposed to be representing the taxpayers of the taxing district affected by the \$55 million MCS renovations projects, is not only the Business Agent for the AFL/CIO Union, but doesn't live OR own property in the MCS

taxing district! The ONLY member of the committee who stands to be directly affected by the taxes, is Mr. Burkhardt, the Associate Superintendent of the Owner of the project!

What exactly does all this mean to the taxpayers for Muncie Community Schools? Well, to make a long story short, the net difference in costs to the overall projects has been estimated at over **\$8 million in wasted taxpayer dollars!**

There's a whole lot more to this story, and as we approach the Spring Primary elections where three of the current Muncie Community School Board seats are up for grabs, we will zero in on the many extraordinary efforts the MCS and School Board make to keep public inputs and influence at bay.

In the meantime, consider what positive impact you could bring as a School Board Member!
- Chris Hiatt

Elected Officials Scorecard

The voting and public positions of our elected public officials.

Legend	Property Tax Repeal	Cap.Proj/Referendums	County Consolidations	City Consolidations	City/Co. Consolidations	Dept. Consolidations	Personnel Reductions	Privatization of Svcs	Tax Abatement	TA Non-compliance Penalty	Forced Annexation		
Y = Yes, in favor N = No, not in favor - = Undecided..... (yet to demonstrate by vote)													
Sen. Sue Errington	N	N											
Rep. Bill Davis	Y	N											
Rep. Dennis Tyler	N	N											
Rep. Jack Lutz	N	N											
DC Cms. John Brooke			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y			
DC Cms. Tom Bennington			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y			
DC Cms. Larry Bledsoe			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y			
DC Cnc. Brad Bookout			Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N			
DC Cnc. Joe Russell			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N			
DC Cnc. Ron Quakenbush			Y	N	Y	Y	N	N	Y	N			
DC Cnc. Mary Chambers			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y			
DC Cnc. Mel Botkin			Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N	N			
DC Cnc. Ted Bowman			N	N	N	N	N	Y	-	Y			
DC Cnc. Chris Matchett			N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y			
Mayor Sharon McShurley				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	-	Y			
MC Cnc. Sam Marshall				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	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		
MC Cnc. Monte Murphy				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	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		
MC Cnc. Brad Polk				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y		
MC Cnc. Mark Conatser				N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y		

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, 1/28/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 3/3/08 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall

Monday, 2/4/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Tuesday, 3/11/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Monday, 2/4/08 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall

Monday, 3/17/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Delaware Co. Senior Citizens Ctr.
2517 W. 8th St., Muncie

Tuesday, 2/12/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Tuesday, 3/25/08 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 2/19/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Eaton Town Hall
Eaton, Indiana

Tuesday, 3/25/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Tuesday, 2/26/08 @ 9:00 am:
Delaware County Council Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Monday, 4/7/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Tuesday, 2/26/08 @ 6:30 pm:
Muncie School Board Meeting
MCS Administration Building
2501 N. Oakwood Avenue, Muncie, IN

Monday, 4/7/08 @ 7:30 pm:
Muncie City Council Meeting
(Public meetings and special meetings may begin earlier)
City Hall Courtroom
Muncie City Hall

Monday, 3/3/08 @ 9:30 am:
Del. Co. Commissioners Meeting
Commissioners Court, Room 309
County Building, Muncie

Tuesday, 4/8/08 @ 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

February/March, 2008

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The Delaware County
Taxpayer Crier



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Committed to educating the taxpaying and
voting citizens of Delaware County for the betterment
of government, community and reduced taxes.

HELP US HELP YOU!

January challenge: Attend the County Commissioners meetings:
January 28, 2008 @ 9:30 am!
February 4, 2008 @ 9:30 am!

February challenge: Attend the Muncie City Council Meeting:
February 4, 2008 @ 7:30 pm

March challenge: Enlist at least one new citizen!

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



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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right to edit submissions for content, length and clarity.
The Delaware County Taxpayer Crier submissions
may additionally be published on the Citizens of
Delaware County for Property Tax Repeal, Inc. website.

Memorable Quotes:

"This Meetings' Over!" –

Robert (Sam) Marshall, Muncie City Council President, regarding
his abrupt and illegal adjournment of the Muncie City Council's
meeting of January 7, 2008 in the face of critical public remarks.

"That's not what this Council Meeting is for...." –

Mary Jo Barton, District 3 Muncie City Councilperson, regarding
the public's remarks concerning the alleged inappropriate behavior
of another sitting Councilman colleague, Mr. Monte Murphy.

"I don't care. What we did at our meeting, I feel good about." –

Mary Jo Barton, District 3 Muncie City Councilperson, summarizing
the Muncie City Council Meeting of January 7, 2008 that erupted
into chaos. Videos of the meeting ultimately made their way to
state and national news as well as to YouTube where they have
received nearly 20,000 views since posted.

*"We have given you the opportunity to raise your rents to cover it.
That's easy, isn't it?..." –*

Bill Smith, Muncie Sanitary District Administrator and Board President,
regarding the kidnapping and removal of existing multi-unit toters in
exchange for a \$5.00/toter/month ransom for their return.