

Did you know?

Vote No #186

There is a non-partisan referendum on the November 4 ballot that will affect you, “Should the Assessing duties of the elected township assessor in the township be transferred to the county assessor?”

Township personnel have as much, if not **more**, training as the “professionals.” Assessors are the **only elected officials** who must be certified by the state and take continuing education to maintain the certification.

The State of Indiana patterns its rules for assessments with the rules from “The International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO)”. The IAAO sets \$30.00 as a target per parcel of assessment. This office operates at \$15.00 to \$16.00 per parcel. The reason for the low cost in this office: All employees are state certified Assessor/ appraisers, who have the know-how to perform their duties.

The budgets for the already closed Township offices have so far simply been combined into the County Assessor's budget, **services for Taxpayers are being reduced**, and they are seeing no savings.

The methods for assessing are determined by rules set by the State of Indiana, Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). If the Township Assessor's duties are transferred to the county level, the **rules would stay the same**.

One basic flaw in the current system is that homes that are up for sale are often spruced up for sale, and some have been completely renovated. When is the last time you had major work done? It is the **sales** in an area that influence the assessments in that area.

Also a home in one area may well be assessed for much more than a nearly identical home in another area. This is just the way market value assessing works, because that is the way things are in the Real Estate Market. **Location matters**.

Township Assessors live and work in the township and know who they are responsible to. They know the township, and have offices that are more accessible to the average Taxpayer than a central location, especially a central location that includes **passing through a metal detector**.

If you don't want your assessment done by outside contractors over whom you have no elective control, you need to vote **“No!”**

Say **No** to a reduction of your elective power and the added inconvenience of not having a local office.

Paid for by Hank Adams, St. John Township Assessor.