



“SAVE ILLINOIS TAXPAYERS” PLEDGE

PART 1- PROPERTY TAX FREEZE FOR THREE YEARS

POLICY: Freeze property taxes for three years followed by an inflation indexed hard cap.

How it works:

1. Immediate statewide three year freeze on all local property tax levies.
2. Repeal all exceptions (loopholes) to PTELL (Property Tax Extension Limitation Law).
3. Allow for Referendum. Only voters can give permission to raise levies.
4. Starting year 4, property taxes can only be raised in accordance with an inflation indexed hard cap.

Illinois property taxpayers need immediate protection from ever escalating tax bills. Illinois property taxes are the seventh highest of the 50 states. Illinois leads the country in home foreclosures in large measure because of skyrocketing property taxes.

Property taxes are too high and too costly: In certain areas of Illinois, residential property taxpayers are paying more in property tax payments than in mortgage payments. For example, in Addison (DuPage County) and Franklin Park (Cook County), many homes are for sale for \$70,000 and carry \$7,000 in property taxes. Their property tax payments comprise up to twice the home mortgage payment.

Commercial property real estate taxes are crushing private sector jobs. In Bellwood, Illinois, one auto repair shop has a \$53,000 property tax bill. This however is not an uncommon story. Businesses and entrepreneurs across Illinois are complaining long and loud that they cannot afford to grow and expand in Illinois because of rising property taxes. The high cost of doing business in Illinois is driven by high property taxes and the recent income tax increase.

This policy freezes taxes, closes loopholes and empowers local citizens. This policy forces local government to get permission from taxpayers before raising taxes. For decades, taxpayers had no say on the level of debt and spending they were forced to pay. Local citizens can choose to override the caps by referendum, if they so choose. Now, elected and appointed officials will have to convince voters they need more money rather than just pushing additional spending and debt onto property tax bills like they do now.