

**PETITION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ST. CLAIR COUNTY
FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF**

Property taxes have increased in many Townships over 30% in the past four years; township multipliers are projected to be at 6% to 14% in 2008.

The burden on homeowners due to escalating property taxes is forcing families to restrict their spending on goods and services that would otherwise promote employment and prosperity in our community. Owners of commercial properties are being forced to increase prices & lease rates, preventing new companies from locating to our area and providing needed jobs.

This property tax injustice is pressuring retiring military families, seniors and the elderly, living on fixed incomes, to move out of St. Clair County.

Many taxing bodies have repeatedly failed to reduce their tax rates, knowing and having evidence to support the fact that increased assessed valuations, due to the township multiplier, will provide a windfall of revenue. Claiming no responsibility for a tax increase, they simply continue to increase spending.

The township multiplier fails to take into account the drastic downturn in the real estate market in St. Clair County, therefore properties that were recently re-assessed or newly purchased have overvalued assessments.

Some taxing bodies have amassed excessive cash reserves of taxpayer's money.

Therefore, the citizens, property owners, and voters of St. Clair County urgently call upon each taxing body to provide immediate property tax relief by taking the following actions:

- 1) **Trim your budget the same way families in St. Clair County must** in order to pay for the large increases in property taxes.
- 2) **Reduce your tax rate at this year's tax levy hearing** by the percentage equal to the township multiplier that is used in your jurisdiction or a weighted average of the township multipliers that are represented in your jurisdiction, if more than one applies.
- 3) **Make public your response to this request** by publishing your tax levy hearing dates, times, and locations in advance so that as many citizens can attend and be a part of the tax levy process as possible. Please also respond directly via email to Concerned Citizens at info@ourtaxmoney.com.

By signing this petition, you are stating your desire for immediate relief from the burden of excessive property taxes.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

Please mail this sheet to: OTM, 30 Commerce Lane, Lebanon, IL 62254.

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**We the undersigned call upon all local governments in St. Clair County to provide immediate
property tax relief.**

Name

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City

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Note: If you would like to be added to an email list and receive updates on the progress of this campaign, please email your contact information to info@ourtaxmoney.com .

Circulator _____

Page # _____ / _____

Please mail signed petitions to OTM, 30 Commerce Drive, Lebanon, IL 62254.