

CONSIDER TENNESSEE

By Woodrow Wilcox

Can't Afford To Live in Lake County, Indiana? Consider Tennessee.

A few times every week, a senior citizen tells me of a desire to move because living in Lake County, Indiana is unaffordable for a retired person on a fixed income.

Taxes and utilities keep rising faster than most senior citizens can afford. Senior citizen clients ask me for suggestions on how to reduce their living costs. Here are the thoughts that I share with them.

If you move twenty miles south of the Lake County line, taxes and premiums for Medicare supplemental insurance will lessen.

If you move to central or southern Indiana, utility rates will drop, too. One of my relatives has a five bedroom three bathroom home east of Kokomo. The utility bill for that big home is never more than \$150.

Many clients who retire and move away stay in contact for a while. Of those, it seems that the senior citizens who move from northwest Indiana to Tennessee seem to be the happiest with their move.

A senior couple who moved from Crown Point, Indiana to Chattanooga, Tennessee got a reduction in their monthly Medicare supplemental insurance premiums of almost \$400. A couple who moved from Hebron, Indiana to Columbia, Tennessee got a dramatic reduction in their utility costs which saved them hundreds of dollars per month.

Tennessee has no state estate tax. Tennessee has no inheritance tax on amounts less than one million dollars. Some Tennessee communities give big exemptions to senior citizens for owner occupied properties. One woman who moved to Johnson City, Tennessee told me that she had a beautiful \$65,000 home and that she paid no property taxes because of the senior citizen exemption.

If you live in Tennessee, but get a pension from another state, there is no Tennessee income tax on that. Tennessee has a tax on certain dividend and interest income.

Based on what I have learned from clients who moved to Tennessee, I believe that any senior citizen who wants to move from northwest Indiana should consider a move to Tennessee.

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