

HIGH PROPERTY TAXES HURTING SINGLE MOM

By Woodrow Wilcox

Lisa Nagy is losing her home due to high property taxes in Lake County, Indiana.

The working single mom had perfect credit when she bought the home a few years ago. But, the property taxes alone cost her almost \$300 per month. She just can't juggle all her expenses and pay the high property taxes, too.

Lisa Nagy put her home up for sale at a price that would pay off the mortgage and leave her with nothing. She just wanted to save her credit and move into a less expensive place. Now, her home is in foreclosure because of the high property taxes that are unaffordable.

You can watch the interview of Lisa Nagy in a video clip on the "Citizen Interviews" page of www.woodrowwilcox.tv.

During the interview, Lisa Nagy showed surprise when she learned that her Indiana State Representative Chet Dobis had voted for the two state laws that caused property taxes to skyrocket in parts of Lake County. Chet Dobis represents the thirteenth district which stretches from parts of St. John and Schererville to much of Merrillville and Hobart. Chet Dobis is being challenged in the November 2008 election by St. John resident Joe Hero.

Three other Indiana state representatives that voted for the two state laws that caused property taxes to rise in Lake County are being challenged in the November 2008 election. They are Linda Lawson in the first district, Dan Stevenson in the eleventh district, and Vernon Smith in the fourteenth district. Linda Lawson is being challenged by Munster resident Fernando Urzua. Vernon Smith is being challenged by Gary resident Catherine Campbell.

A few precincts in Schererville are in the eleventh district. This fall, Dan Stevenson is being challenged by Cy Huerter who is a retired naval officer and last year's president of the Lake County Right To Life organization. You can watch an interview of Cy Huerter at www.woodrowwilcox.tv.

The two state laws that caused property taxes to rise were the law that shifted the job of assessing industrial property along Lake Michigan to a state agency in Indianapolis and a law that increased the homestead exemption for owner occupied homes. The state agency reduced the assessment on the industrial properties by millions of dollars and the increased homestead exemption took thousands of properties in Lake County's poor neighborhoods off the tax rolls entirely.

But, Lake County political leaders kept spending as though nothing had changed. That caused the property tax burden to shift onto homeowners, small businesses, and rental property owners. Interviews of other property owners affected by high property taxes in Lake County can be viewed on the "Citizen Interviews" page of www.woodrowwilcox.tv.

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