

Labor Union Retirees Need Property Tax Cap

By Woodrow Wilcox

Governor Mitch Daniels has proposed a property tax cap that would limit property taxes in Indiana. Daniels' plan would limit property taxes to no more than 1% for homeowners, 2% for rental property, and 3% for commercial property.

Some politicians have used scare tactics to try to defeat the proposal. Those politicians have said that such a limit would force the politicians to cut police, fire department, and school funds. Those politicians are not being honest because they know that they could cut programs that shovel public money to their political friends without hurting police, fire, or school funds.

Retired union members and working union members would benefit from a tax cap of one percent on residential property and a two percent limit on rental property.

I don't know of many union members who can afford to pay property taxes of \$6,000, \$12,000, or \$20,000 per year on a \$100,000 home. But, that is the range of property tax bills in some parts of northwest Indiana – especially Lake County. Governor Daniels' proposal to limit property taxes on homes to no more than one percent would benefit retired and working union members greatly. The limit of no more than two percent on rental property would benefit union members and retirees who rent because landlords always pass along the cost of the property tax bill to renters.

Governor Daniels' proposal for a property tax cap is reasonable and necessary and will benefit all working people of Indiana. Other states are passing tax caps. Some states already limit property taxes at or near the one percent mark. My friends in Florida, Tennessee, and Nevada pay property taxes that are less than one percent of property value.

Some of my friends who own small businesses in Illinois have told me that if and when Governor Daniels' tax cap becomes law, they will move their businesses to Indiana because that would make Indiana a better place to own a business. If other business owners feel the same way, then the tax cap law would bring new businesses and new jobs to Indiana. Indiana needs new businesses and new jobs to rebuild the state's economy.

Support Governor Daniels' tax cap law proposal. It will benefit union workers and retirees. It will bring new jobs to Indiana and benefit working people in Indiana.

Written in the spring of 2008.