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Letter to the Editor

Which local politicians caused the property tax increases?

Last spring I attended several property tax information sessions that were sponsored by various groups, including some organized by Lake County Assessor Paul Karras, a Democrat. Several speakers, including Karras, told the crowds that every incumbent state legislator from Lake County voted for the laws that lead to the huge property tax increases. Unfortunately, many voters don't know who the incumbent state legislators are. So, here is a list of the incumbent state legislators from Lake County. Remember, these politicians voted for the laws that resulted in property tax increases.

John Aguilera – Democrat
Charlie Brown – Democrat
Earl Harris – Democrat
Sue Landske – Republican
Frank Mrvan – Democrat
Sam Smith – Democrat
Dan Stevenson – Democrat.

Rose Ann Antich – Democrat
Chet Dobis – Democrat
Bob Kuzman – Democrat
Linda Lawson – Democrat
Earline Rogers – Democrat
Vernon Smith – Democrat

If you like the property tax increases or other policies that these state legislators support, then consider voting for them. But, if you don't like the recent property tax increases or other policies that these state legislators support, then consider voting for their opponents. Who are their opponents? Who cares? The opponents didn't vote to raise your property tax bill.

Both Democrats and Republicans voted for the laws that resulted in the property tax increase. The bills were signed into law by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon, a Democrat. So, no one political party deserves the blame for the property tax increase.

Also, at the meetings I learned that Lake County Assessor Paul Karras and others warned the city, township, and county officials that there would be a drastic reduction in property tax revenues from the industrial property owners. But, few or none of the local officials heeded the warnings to curb spending until the impact was upon us and property owners were shocked. Only two of these budget controlling politicians are up for re-election this year.

The two incumbent Lake County Commissioners – Fran DuPey and Gerry Scheub – were among the local public officials who did not heed the warnings. These County Commissioners could have lessened the tax burden by managing, investigating, and cutting wasteful spending in county government. Only after local newspapers began to investigate and report on wasteful county government spending practices did these two county commissioners start to work on the problem. If they had only started cutting the wasteful spending much earlier, then maybe your property tax bill would be less than it is.

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