

Taxpayer to Taxpayer

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WILL YOU JOIN ME IN WORKING TO BE A MORE INFORMED VOTER, AND CITIZEN?



Ersel Schuster

If we want better and more responsive government; we, you and I, need to take a long hard look in the mirror because we are responsible for the financial condition of our local, state and federal governments.

When we choose not to make it our business to know those we honor with our votes, we have no right to complain about the things these people do to us through their actions.

I promise to take the time to bring you another view of local, McHenry County, and McHenry County Township, news... Will you promise to review that information?

Will you respond with your thoughts and suggestions?

Will you help get this information out by forwarding the link to friends and neighbors?

When we know the issues and our elected officials, we can make a difference!

Getting the message out...

Over the years I have made several attempts at gathering and sharing information related to our local governments; specifically, McHenry County and McHenry County Townships.

As distribution costs increased for getting this information out to you; and as the time I could devote to the effort diminished, it was necessary to step away from the project.

Today, with the advancements in technology making mailing and postage costs a non-issue, I am ready to give the newsletters another try.

Being up-front with you, yes, my name is on the March 20, 2018 Primary ballot for McHenry County Board Member - Dist. 6. While preparing for this effort, and to make myself more informed, I would like to share the results of those efforts with you.

The in-depth work it takes to identify and research these issues often creates many questions. My goal is not only to share this information with you but to ask for your opinions and suggestions.

Together, we can learn, stay on top of the issues, and ultimately make sure that McHenry County does not fall into the same financial trap as the state of IL.

These issues and information will have a direct impact on our lives, right here in McHenry County.

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All costs in developing this newsletter are paid for by Ersel C. Schuster, Candidate.

Sample issue...

As a heads-up... the McHenry County Board, at its' 12/12/17 meeting, approved the following resolution initiating a referendum question you will see on the Mar. 20, 2017 ballot:

"Given that the McHenry County Board in 2017 reduced its property tax levy by 11.2 percent, do you believe that local school districts should reduce their property tax levies by at least ten percent by the year 2020?"

with a provision to: check "yes" or "no"

Whether this is a legitimate question, or a political stunt... the board's motives could be argued pro and con as it would be difficult to believe that the results of such a question would yield anything other than a "YES" vote from taxpayers. Something county board members already know.

There is nothing wrong with the concept of asking voter opinion on a topic. There is however, a problem when the objective of a taxing body is to play political games at our expense.

There is a cost to placing a referendum on the ballot. So, "why are county board members wasting tax dollars to develop and run such a question?"

Had you been following the 2018 County Board Budget discussion and actions, you would clearly understand why the referendum question includes the phrase... "Given that the McHenry County Board in 2017 reduced its property tax levy by 11.2 percent,..." and, that it is the underlying issue.

They want, and seek publicity for "reducing the county levy."

In an upcoming newsletter, the "reduction" issue will be explored in-depth because the 2018 LEVY was not reduced. They simply "abated" several questionable 2018 budget "expense items."

Without significant challenge, this "shell game" enables board members to claim reductions but to still "protect the LEVY..." (as stated during the 11/14/17 McHenry County Board Meeting.) in other words, the levy was not reduced as they want us to believe.

They openly said... "*we will deal with the problems we've created... next year!*"

Things we need to know, and more to come...