

City of Franklin

Office of the Mayor

55 W. Madison Street
P.O. Box 280
Franklin, IN 46131
Phone (317) 736-3602
Fax (317) 736-3603

Brenda Jones-Matthews
Mayor

Janet P. Alexander
Clerk - Treasurer

Robert D. Schafstall
City Judge

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Date 9-10-2007

Contact Information:

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews
City of Franklin
(317)736-3602

RE: Property Tax Reform

It is time for the Indiana General Assembly to stop, look, and listen to local Franklin residents about the need to fix our property tax assessment system. Many of the residents of Franklin, Indiana are finding it difficult to understand the increases in their property taxes. This week we passed another benchmark in the assessment timeline and yet, there has been little positive action by Indiana state officials to address the concerns of those citizens with higher tax bills. I wanted to take this opportunity to point out that the Franklin Township Assessor David Harrison, Needham Township Assessor Mary Ellen Woods, and Pleasant Township Assessor Donna Zelner are here to help. The property tax problem was created by the Indiana General Assembly, not by our local assessors. Both local offices in the past few months have worked hard to struggle with the assessment system imposed upon Franklin residents from Indianapolis.

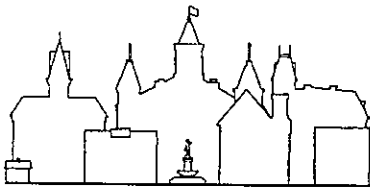
As mayor, it is time for me to once again lend my voice to the urgent call to have our state elected officials address the need to restructure our property tax assessment system. As a first step, I am forming today the Franklin Mayor's Tax Advisory Council to look for ways that we can locally reduce the assessed tax burdens on our citizens until the Indiana General Assembly acts to restructure the assessment process. The Advisory Council will look at ways to reduce local government costs. The Advisory Council will monitor other taxing units affecting citizens' taxes and share the plans between these taxing units to make sure that each local unit of government understands its cumulative effect on the taxpayers of our community.

We still need to provide for quality education, public safety, and the essential government services that make living in our community unique. My challenge as mayor is to make sure that we do so in a cost-effective way, and that the cost savings that the city generates

are passed on as a direct savings to taxpayers without having other local units of government increase taxes. The Franklin Mayor's Tax Advisory Council will be comprised of Garry Petersen, Brian Alvey, and Carey Craig. The Advisory Council will be a second set of eyes to review the city budget and will keep the City Council and the mayor's office updated on the spending plans of other local units of government. The Advisory Council will look at a broad range of subjects affecting taxpayers, from tax incentives to neighborhood classifications under the assessment system.

While this work is underway, the citizens of our community should take the time to look at their assessment and determine if they believe it is appropriate. The taxpayers of our community should understand that our local assessors, David Harrison, Mary Ellen Woods, and Donna Zelner, are here to help and are willing to assist local residents and review their assessments.

Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews
City of Franklin
(317)736-3602



City of Franklin

Office of the Mayor

55 W. Madison Street
P.O. Box 280
Franklin, IN 46131
Phone (317) 736-3602
Fax (317) 736-3603

Brenda Jones-Matthews
Mayor

Janet P. Alexander
Clerk - Treasurer

Robert D. Schafstall
City Judge

9-10-2007

Background on Tax Advisory Council Members:

Garry J. Petersen is a senior economist with the firm of William-Lynn-James, Inc. and holds a research chair with the Tax Research Analysis center.

Brian M. Alvey is the owner of several companies that include, Heartland Mechanical Services Inc. and Eagle Eye Properties LLC. Mr. Alvey continues to serve his Country in the military as a Paratrooper with the Indiana National Guard.

Carey W. Craig is a graduate of the University of Indianapolis with a Bachelor of Arts degree in history and political science. Mr. Craig is the chief operating officer for the Indiana Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The Mayor's Tax Advisory Council can be contacted through the Mayor's office at 317-736-3602.