

Effects of tax caps

Here are examples of how local home and business owners would be affected by a plan to cap property taxes at a percentage of the property's market value, with 1 percent for homes, 2 percent for rentals or homes without homestead credits and 3 percent for businesses. The tax bills are from 2007 and would not take into account property tax rebate checks sent to homeowners. The taxes under the cap also do not take into account any new building projects that could increase taxes outside of the cap.

Homes

1 percent cap

Monroe Street

Franklin
2007 market value
\$75,000

2007 taxes
\$862

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$750

Possible savings
\$112

Crooked Lane

Center Grove
2007 market value
\$226,800

2007 taxes
\$2,684

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$2,268

Possible savings
\$416

Downing Drive

Greenwood
2007 market value
\$127,800

2007 taxes
\$1,339

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$1,278

Possible savings
\$61

Grant Street

Edinburgh
2007 market value
\$51,300

2007 taxes
\$671

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$513

Possible savings
\$158

Homes and rentals

2 percent cap

County Road 200E

Franklin
2007 market value
\$111,900

2007 taxes
\$3,011

Taxes with cap
\$2,238

Possible savings
\$773

Morgantown Road

Center Grove
2007 market value
\$67,800

2007 taxes
\$1,093

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$1,356

Possible tax increase
\$263

Monticello Drive

Greenwood
2007 market value
\$243,800

2007 taxes
\$4,475

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$4,876

Possible tax increase
\$401

Fairway Lakes Drive

Franklin
2007 market value
\$134,100

2007 taxes
\$3,598

Taxes with cap
No more than
\$2,682

Possible savings
\$916

Businesses

3 percent cap

Mutual Savings Bank

Franklin
2007 market value
\$354,700

2007 taxes
\$9,545

Taxes with cap
\$10,641

Possible tax increase
\$1,096

Meijer

Center Grove
2007 market value
\$11,294,100

2007 taxes
\$223,243

Taxes with cap
\$338,823

Possible tax increase
\$115,580

Small business

Edinburgh
2007 market value
\$45,000

2007 taxes
\$1,309

Taxes with cap
\$1,350

Possible tax increase
\$41

Kroger

Greenwood
2007 market value
\$4,799,100

2007 taxes
\$123,835

Taxes with cap
\$143,973

Possible tax increase
\$20,138

TOWNSHIPS

Under the state's property tax proposal, effective July 1 duties of township assessors in townships with fewer than 15,000 parcels would be transferred to the county. The proposal also requires a public vote in November in townships with more than 15,000 parcels to decide whether to transfer assessing duties to the county assessor. Here's a look at the number of parcels in Johnson County's nine townships and what would happen with each:

Blue River Township

2,481 parcels

Township assessor would be eliminated.

Clark Township

1,420 parcels

The township has an assessor/trustee, who serves both roles. The assessor position would be eliminated.

Franklin Township

7,865 parcels

Township assessor would be eliminated.

Hensley Township

2,687 parcels

Township assessor/trustee would drop assessor role.

Needham Township

3,124 parcels

Township assessor/trustee would drop assessor role.

Nineveh Township

2,979 parcels

Township assessor/trustee would drop assessor role.

Pleasant Township

19,045 parcels

Voters would decide in November if the township assessor position should stay.

Union Township

1,754 parcels

Township assessor/trustee would drop assessor role.

White River Township

17,034 parcels

Voters would decide in November if the township assessor position should stay.

HOMESTEAD CREDIT

Need to know if you have filed a homestead credit?

Homeowners can find out if they have filed for a credit to save money on their property taxes on a state Web site.

The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance created a Web site listing properties that have homestead deductions, which subtract \$45,000 from a home's market value. That figure determines how much property taxes homeowners pay.

Currently, the Web site has information from 85 Indiana counties, including Johnson County, from last year's tax information, according to a news release from the department.

The site can be searched using an owner's name or a property address to find their information.

In general, if a home comes up in the search, the owner has filed for the deduction, said Mary Jane Michalak, spokeswoman for the department of local government finance.

Several things could cause a home to be absent from the list, she said. They include:

- The owner has not applied for a deduction.
- The county has not provided the owner's deduction information to the state.
- The search criteria being used isn't the same information the county submitted about the property to the state.

The search is available on the department's Web site at dlgf.in.gov by clicking on "Homestead look up," under the "Search our databases" heading. Homestead deductions are available for homeowners on their primary residence.

Homeowners who are unsure if they have filed for the deduction also can contact the county auditor's office at 346-4310.