

Tax Advisory Committee Meeting Report

By Dale Akers,

Board Member of the Village League to Save Incline Assets

Thursday, 29 July 2004

This morning Ted (The Pit Bull) Harris, Carl Foster and I attended and spoke at the meeting conducted by the Advisory Committee to the Legislative Committee for Local Government Taxes and Finance. Ted asked me to prepare a summary of the meeting for possible distribution to the League's email list. Feel free to make any corrections or changes.

Meeting Summary

Another confirmation of the tremendous progress being made by The Village League to Save Incline Assets took place today in Carson City. During a meeting held by the State Advisory Committee to the Legislative Committee for Local and Government Taxes and Finance, which was video conferenced with Committee members in Las Vegas, the Clark County Assessor, Mr. Mark Scofield, presented his plan for a change in State legislation to limit any property tax increases to a maximum of 6% per year.

Mr. Scofield, the elected Assessor for Las Vegas and all of Clark County, has serious influence with State legislators and State bureaucrats. His proposal, a very good first step for Nevada taxpayers, is being supported by numerous State politicians on both sides of the aisle. The Village League has been fortunate to have worked very closely with Mr. Scofield in numerous property tax workshops over the past year.

Mr. Scofield made it clear to a couple of bureaucrat types who voiced concern that perhaps the 6% limit might not bring in enough money for them, that if the State did not do something to control runaway property tax increases, they could be certain that a property

tax initiative would be passed which would make Prop. 13 look like child's play.

One Las Vegas gentleman spoke, who represents a large number of seniors, stated that there are 500,000 retirees in Nevada who could be quickly organized to pass a property tax initiative if a serious tax cap is not initiated.

Several legislators would like for Gov. Guinn to convene a short Special Session of the State Legislature to pass the 6% tax increase cap. That would make the 6% cap apply to next year's tax bill. Unfortunately, holding the political views that he does, the Governor is not inclined to call for the Special Session. Rumor has it that he is concerned that some legislators who are running for re-election might really play politics and recommend radical reductions or rollbacks in property taxes.

In any case, there seems to be very strong support in legislative circles for the 6% property tax increase cap. Without the work and financial support of the Village League members, such a proposal would not have had one chance in a million of being suggested a year ago. Of course, many of us do feel that 6% is still too high. The Federal inflation index would be to the liking of many of us.

Again, thanks to the support of the many Village League supporters, we have made tremendous progress toward making vast improvements in the property tax system in Nevada. We won't stop working until a fair and just system is in place.