

Summary of the Bob McGowan Poll

October 26, 2005

On Wednesday, October 5, 2005, the North Tahoe Bonanza local newspaper ran an article on the recommended removal of Washoe County Assessor, Robert McGowan. On the same day, the www.TahoeBonanza.com website started a community poll feature where visitors to that web site could vote on specific issues. Below is a copy of the poll results and all the comments submitted through October 26, 2005.

If you are not familiar with the article and the Bonanza Newspaper website polling feature, please visit www.TahoeBonanza.com website. In the archive link, put in October 5, 2005 to access the article. Or, better yet, just visit www.NevadaPropertyTaxRevolt.org, click on the News Articles link and then click on the October 5 Bonanza article.

Regards,
Wayne Fischer, Webmaster
of www.NevadaPropertyTaxRevolt.org

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After 23 years of service, should Bob McGowan lose his job as Washoe County Assessor?

yes		50.22% (568)
no		49.78% (563)

Total Votes: 1131

As of Wednesday, October 26, 2005

Note that the above tally and all the comments (following) were copied directly from the Tahoe Bonanza website and put in chronological order of when each comment was submitted.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 16:37:18 PDT

No, I think McGowan has done a servicable job in office for more than two decades. It will be interesting to see what the judge says.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 16:41:44 PDT

I disagree — maybe McGowan's time has come. It sounds like the tax people have found some dirt on McGowan and their claims are real.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 17:05:13 PDT

23 years as a County Assessor is far too long, for the same reason that term limits are placed on other elected offices. McGowan has been derelict in his duty to "take care of business". A new, fresh approach is needed.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 17:13:26 PDT

On several occasions, I've had the opportunity to listen to Bob McGowan describe how he computes our property taxes. He always emphasized that he was simply 'following the law'.

However, never once, in my opinion did he truly explain the law in a clear and concise manner. Instead, when presented with specific questions, the answer ran along the lines of 'it is so complicated.' Nothing personal against you, Mr. McGowan, but I believe we have allowed you to 'serve' the citizens of Washoe County far too long. This important job should be given to someone who has a better grasp on the understanding of 'the law'. Michele Norris, 14 yr resident of Incline Village, NV

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:00:38 PDT

23 years is too long for anyone to be an assessor, for the same reasons that term limits are place on other public positions. We need fresh ideas and attitudes.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:01:06 PDT

Yes. The "attitude" of the assessor's office comes from the guy at the top. When I built a house, they over-assessed it (and knew they did so). They even told me so - the appraiser said "We know we're probably wrong. If you don't like it, appeal it." I did so, and ws able to win, but only considerable time and expense. The assesor's office know they can get away with this because they know most people don't have the time, resources, or knowledge to fight them. It's time to get someone with a "fairer" understanding of the the job in place. The job is to serve the public, not extract the most possible dollars through devious means.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:13:33 PDT

McGowan has exhibited all the things we fear and hate about government employees who are not answerable directly to their constituents. He is arrogant, ignores the law, and treats his constituents with disdain at best or totally ignores their comments and objections at worst. He has no place in public service.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:14:32 PDT

I'm not sure that what he does can be called a "service". I think he has been doing a disservice to the Washoe County community for too long and can be correctly characterized as an arrogant bureaucrat who has outlived any usefulness he may have once had.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:22:13 PDT

Anyone who has had the same govt job for 23 years could not possibly do a fair and honest job!!!

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:30:06 PDT

Let's see ... 23 years takes us back to 1982, the year I purchased my retirement home here. However it wasn't until twenty (20) years later when Mr. McGowan began treating Incline Village as Washoe County's "cash cow" by unfairly -- illegally, some say -- jacking up the property assesments here and not elsewhere in the county. How it can be said that he has done a "servicable job" in office is beyond me.

by Griffy-Boy on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:52:00 PDT

To quote Mr. McGowan addressing a large group of tax appellants at hearing of the County Board of Equalization: "Be careful what you ask for ... you may just get it!"

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 18:57:37 PDT

I support Bob McGowan and find the Bonanza's decision to select this as their first on line poll, a very poor journalistic decision and supportive of the tax revolt group which is not in tune with what our community really needs and therefore, the Bonanza is out of tune also.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 20:02:44 PDT

McGowan's acts are arbitrary and capricious. He is beyond arrogant and he apparently has no regard for the taxpayers of Incline V. and Crystal Bay. Any public servant that disrespects the taxpayer like McGowan should be asked to step away from their positions. McGowan clearly does not have the capacity to perform the functions that his position demands.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 20:33:52 PDT

Yes, McGowan's performance is exactly why term limits have been put on other governmental jobs. He is part of the "good ole boy" system and is responsible for the attitude in his dept. Incline Village should not be treated differently than other areas. He has and illegally.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 20:56:04 PDT

My own personal story is that Mr. McGowan's office did a drive by property assessment a few years ago to determine that I had a view from my deck. After much delay and view searching, I called his office to request a personal visit, so the Assessors Office could show me where the view was. I thought it would be handy in case I needed to sell my property. The kind gentleman that showed up confirmed my hunch by saying that there was no view from my property. When I asked how such a mistake could have been made, the person explained that they just did a "drive by" guess. He admitted that this was sloppy work. When I appeared in front of the State Board of Equalization, I asked for a rebate of the extra property tax that I had to pay as a result of this sloppy work. I was told that they did not have jurisdiction and that this would just tough luck.

P.S. My property is now up for sale. On a fixed retirement income, I can no longer afford to pay these high property taxes. They have run me off and therefore I think the Assessor should go.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 21:24:01 PDT

23 years is too long for an assessor to be in office, for the same reasons as term limits were placed on many public positions. We need new thoughts, and attitudes.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 21:36:23 PDT

When Mr. McGowan replied to someone why he was refusing to follow the new rules, and his answer was "When someone in charge tells me I'm doing it wrong, then maybe I'll change; and maybe I won't", his arrogance was palpable. He has been there too long.

by Anonymous on Wednesday, October 05 @ 22:02:30 PDT

Somehow, the use of the word, "serviceable", is not exactly a glowing recommendation. If the taxes were equitably assessed, rationally appraised and accurately administered we taxpayers would be most appreciative.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 06:34:28 PDT

When a government official no longer supports or meets the needs those who pay his salary it is time for a change.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 07:38:56 PDT

Can't agree more that this guy McGowan is nothing more than an arrogant beaurocrat. The best way to fix problems they create is to remove them and hope their replacements do not fall into the same rut too soon. "Throw the rascals out"!

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 07:39:35 PDT

Is this Bob McGowan ??? Thanks for reading the Bonanza. However, you should be reading the "classifieds" under "incompetent & unethical".....

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 08:22:34 PDT

It is clear that in recent years Bob McGowan has come to believe his position and experience allow him to disregard the requirements of the laws and regulations covering property assessments. We believe there is ample evidence to demonstrate he should be removed. We only hope the judge will not be subject to the same pressures from the casino industry as Mr. McGowan.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 09:29:50 PDT

By definition: a government employee is one of the dimmest bulbs in the pack. In Mr. McGowan's case, his light went out years ago.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 09:39:24 PDT

It is apparent that this poll is slanted towards Incline "Village People" as the Tahoe Bonanza is not distributed in all parts of Washoe County, but mainly at the lake. Also the fact that the League to save Incline Whiners has sent out an e-mail to everyone on their list to vote to remove Bob McGowan shows the poll is actually useless. Please lets see what the legal system decides, after all innocent until proven guilty.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 12:52:12 PDT

Hopefully the legal system WILL operate as it should and remove McGowan from his position. His arrogance in refusing to follow the laws of Nevada is unbelievable. As was said by a wise person in the past, "The power to tax is the power to destroy".

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 15:55:59 PDT

Well let me begin by first addressing that a 14yr old teenager did not write this letter, nor listen to Mr. McGowan's explanations. A child of that age is not interested in such a topic, and lacks the experience to write as well as a scholar. Please people if you are going to criticize, which is encouraged by democracy, at least try and portray it in a respectful manner. Don't bring your child into it, let her decide on her own discretion when the times comes for her to do so. No, I Believe Assessor Bob McGowan has done a wonderful job in assessing our property in Washoe County. What many people are forgetting is that property tax is increasing everywhere in Northern Nevada, including Incline Village. It may seem unfair, but the increased rates are proportional. They are higher here because of the location; next to the world famous and beautiful Lake Tahoe.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 17:26:18 PDT

Hopefully, the legal system will work as it should, to remove Robert McGowan from his position as Assessor for failing to follow the law. Every other citizen is held accountable to uphold the laws of our country. Should Mr. McGowan be given a pass because of his political connections? I think not.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 18:37:40 PDT

Enough already, Bob McGowan has followed the law and the Tax Commission has indicated he is in full compliance with current property assessment laws. Do not fault a long time good public servant because property values in Incline Village have grown like the wind. Maybe one should look at the lack of good tax policy in our State. Recalling Bob McGowan will not solve what is a market driven problem.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 19:12:02 PDT

No. I think that he probably does a decent job. I think the state checks those guys regularly and they would have found the problem before now. Sounds like sour grapes to me.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 22:23:13 PDT

I agree that Bob McGowan has been doing a good job and any replacement would likely receive the same criticism, if they do the job properly. The real issue (pun intended) is the escalation of real estate values in this beautiful location and as long as taxes are tied to property value they will keep going up!

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 06 @ 23:25:28 PDT

The first words that a taxpayer questioning his/her assessment is immediately asked, if they called the Assessor's office is, "Would you sell your house for this?". This is an illegal question in that in Nevada the entire home should NEVER be at market value. How could the average citizen know that the tax laws in Nevada are different than in any other state in the union? the question is unfair and illegal. Typical of the entire office procedures in the Washoe County Assessor's office. McGowan is completely out of control. He has been in office for too long.

by Anonymous on Friday, October 07 @ 00:47:16 PDT

When the public has to expend an inordinate amount of time, energy and funds to try to protect their holdings from the government, something is definitely wrong. "A man's home is his castle", has somehow gotten lost in translation. Now, a man's home is only safe if he can afford to pay the illegal taxes that are assessed by the Washoe County Assessor, Robert McGowan.

by Anonymous on Friday, October 07 @ 07:19:40 PDT

I have been in Bob McGowan's presence on many occasions. My impression of him is pleasant, knowledgeable and concise. We are lucky to have a dedicated servant in Nevada where this is not often the case.

by Anonymous on Friday, October 07 @ 07:40:33 PDT

Mr. McGowan is one of the best public servants I have ever met. This is a witch hunt and the people of Washoe County should see through it. No one cares more about the people and I support him 100%.

by Anonymous on Friday, October 07 @ 11:14:20 PDT

Anyone who won't reveal their name does not deserve to have their opinion regarded with any seriousness. Mr. McGowan was elected not appointed. If you don't like the way in which your property is taxed, organize a voting campaign against him. This isn't California where you can kick some one out of office on a whim. Louise Thomas

by Anonymous on Friday, October 07 @ 12:57:12 PDT

More than one audit has been performed on the Assessor's Office by the NV Dept. of Taxation (results of which were reviewed, accepted and approved by the NV Tax Commission), and the audits showed that this office was faithfully following the regulations of the commission and Nevada State Law. Baseless emotional arguments to the contrary are not only misguided; they merely show intense frustration with the rising values and corresponding rise in assessments . . . not logic.

by Anonymous on Friday, October 07 @ 15:54:18 PDT

I hear that Bob McGowan is breaking the law?? However, nobody has provided any examples of which laws and no court or Judge has ruled that he has broken the law. In fact just the opposite has happened at the State level. A very experienced State Board sided with the Assessor, ruling that proper methods were used in Incline valuations and therefore overturning a very inexperienced County Board decision. Lets be a bit more specific and maybe quote the law he is said to have broken. How about reporting all the facts and not just the facts that sell papers in Incline Village. As example it was reported the the County Board of Equalization voted unanimously that the County Appraisers used improper rules and regulations; When in fact the most knowledgable and experienced member, the Chairman, with many years of experience as an Appraiser and former property owner in Incline voted just the opposite. We will see when this all plays out and the courts rule, as long as you keep sending your hard earned money to this useless "TAX DEDUCTIBLE" cause.

by Anonymous on Sunday, October 09 @ 12:31:43 PDT

Being a vacation home owner aka, the a "fatted cows" of Washoe County, I accidently discovered I was being taxed on a "view" I didn't have. No where was there a notation regarding this on my bill. I suppose this was part of the reason for my taxes almost tripling in five years. I had the tax office come out and..sure enough, I had only a fraction of the view I had be en taxed on. While my taxes were reduced, for the next year, (not current year, however), there was no relief when I ask for a refund for past years of incorrect tax. I was told.. tough. That's just the way it's done. Why should someone's idea of a view..water..but not mountains..view from living area, but not bedrooms, etc, be the arbitrary basis for extra tax anyway?

by Anonymous on Monday, October 10 @ 18:58:43 PDT

It seems all that McGowan is guilty of is serving his community for 23 years. Assessing taxes are like fighting a war or picking up the garbage, nobody wants to do it but someone has to.

by Anonymous on Monday, October 10 @ 21:18:14 PDT

Of course, Mr. McGowan should NOT lose his job! He is fulfilling his duties as set forth by law. Those of us who live near Lake Tahoe must know that the environment increases property values. If we don't like it, move elsewhere.

by Anonymous on Thursday, October 13 @ 16:31:02 PDT

The charges against Bob McGowan actually are based on the fact that he does his job the way the law requires it. A victory by the tax opponents would "turn the asylum over to the inmates." Let a professional do his job! The assessor doesn't determine values, the market does and he interprets them.

by Anonymous on Saturday, October 15 @ 14:14:50 PDT

It seems that the PEOPLE keep electing McGowan County Assessor....in a field as this and with the County growing so rapidly...experience is definitely important. Unless the people against his retaining his job have specific proof that he is not doing a good job I think he should continue the good work.

by Anonymous on Saturday, October 15 @ 20:45:32 PDT

Anyone here heard of the democratic process? Seems to me that if you want someone out of office, you run someone better against them. I work for the Bob McGowan and, whenever a decision has to be made, the first words out of his mouth are "Is it fair and equitable?" then "Is it in the taxpayers best interest?" He always leans in the taxpayer's favor. He never asks where the taxpayer lives. Sales ratio studies prove that Tahoe properties are assessed lower in relation to their sales prices than other county property. Get the facts before you point fingers!!!

by Anonymous on Saturday, October 15 @ 20:53:21 PDT

beefor ewe make a coment, ewe shud lern to spel!!!! Wat the hek duz distain meen? Ewe shud run aginst MkGowin if ewe want him owt uv ophice!

by Anonymous on Saturday, October 15 @ 20:54:58 PDT

AMEN!

by Anonymous on Monday, October 17 @ 22:55:42 PDT

No, Bob has always been a very fair person--both in private and political life.

by Anonymous on Tuesday, October 18 @ 09:43:52 PDT

He has been a very good assessor for the past 23 years. He is a fair man in both his job and his private life. I have know Bob since 1969. Not only is he fair but he is also an Incline Village property owner, and at this time, a resident of Incline.

by Anonymous on Tuesday, October 26 @ 13:44:22 PDT

This poll has been going on for three weeks and the people are still voting. The total count stands at 1,131 today. And, I am sure this poll will hold the record for number of votes for a long time. The reason is that people are sick and tired of our local government trying to take advantage of local property owners by taxing them out of their home with an attitude of "I could care less". We are just implementing the Nevada State laws. Then when you challenge their practices, then call you an "Incline Whiner". Well, I am very proud to be one of the "Incline Whiners". As a born and raised citizen of the United States, it is Our Right and it is Our Duty to challenges any government that is out of control. If necessary, take then to court and throw the "bum(s)" out of office. By the way, we are winning, when it comes to fighting for fair and equitable property taxes. Respectfully Submitted, Wayne Fischer, Webmaster of www.NevadaPropertyTaxRevolt.org, and a board of member of the Village League to Save Incline Assets.