

LEGISLATIVE ACTION NETWORK WEEK #8
MARCH 3-7, 2008

Paulette Vandegriff, LAN Coordinator

Property Tax reform is still being debated, and politicized. Who will win out, hopefully Hoosiers. The latest reform package contains the three tiered cap system (1 percent of a home's assessed value, 2 percent for rental and farm property and 3 percent for businesses), referendums on major school construction and public works projects, an increase in the earned income tax credit for low income households, an increase in the renter's deduction and an increase in property tax deductions for low-income senior citizens and the disabled.

Also, child welfare costs and the remainder of school operating expenses would be shifted from local taxpayers to the state with the "hope" that local government spending will slow.

One item that still remains is township assessors in Marion County. A special referendum in November would allow citizens of larger townships statewide to decide if the current system of township assessors should be maintained or shifted to the county level.

The session is scheduled to end this Friday, March 14th. If property tax reform isn't accomplished by this date, look for a special session.

An aside: don't be surprised if the tiered cap system is challenged in court.