



# WITH OR WITHOUT

Monday September 10, 2007

## TAXATION WITH REPRESENTATION

The American Revolution began with public outrage over the imposition of a tax on imported tea. The British Crown thought it was a perfectly legal and necessary tax. The public thought otherwise and the result was the Boston Tea Party. It was one of the seminal events of the Revolution.

Today's taxation schemes make the Crown look like a bunch of lightweights.

## TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION

Look at the array of taxes we have today: income tax, sales tax, gasoline tax, property taxes, the list is endless. If you're like me you work hard, obey the law, vote, and try to prepare for the future but you don't always pay attention to how taxation is

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negatively affecting you. Everyone talks about taxes and how unfair they are, especially in view of the fact that pay raises neither keep up with the rate of inflation or the rise in taxes. As a result of taxpayer protest, the Texas State Legislature passed legislation capping the amount of increase that a Taxing Authority could impose. I know many people thought this was a step in the right direction.

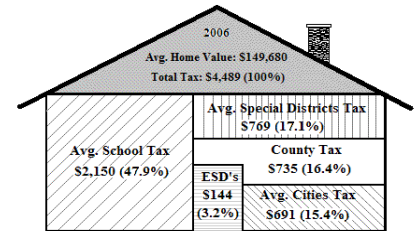
## WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW



What you may not know that as a result of this legislation the Appraisal Districts were not prohibited from increasing the value of your property to make up the shortfall needed to fund the Taxing Authorities budgets. If you are like me you have seen the value of your home increased well beyond its Fair Market Value. The Texas Property Tax Code provides you with some means to dispute the increase. You can appear before the Appraisal Review Board to request relief. Anyone who has done this knows that it can be an all day event. The Texas Property Tax Code does not prohibit citizens through referendum setting the tax rate for any Taxing Authority. Some Montgomery county residents may remember efforts

to disband the Montgomery County Hospital after allegations of fraud in the sale of an office building. It was unsuccessful but several board members lost their seats in the next election.

This is a difficult and time consuming process, it is also expensive as the supporters of these Taxing Authorities are well funded and can mobilize people who benefit from your taxes.



Let us take a look at the Central Appraisal District for Montgomery County Texas.

The appraisal district is governed by a board of directors. Directors are appointed by the taxing-units that participate in the districts. Individuals that make up the Taxing Authority can also serve on the Appraisal District. Fact: an individual who is otherwise eligible to serve on the board is not ineligible because of membership on the governing body of a taxing unit.

Membership on the Board of Directors is not determined by the citizens who are being taxed, but by the individuals who head the taxing authorities. In other

words you the voter have no say in how much your properties appraised value can rise each year. This makes it very easy for you to be taxed to support such projects as expensive football stadiums, gold plated health care for undocumented workers, and other projects as the directors of the taxing units see fit. It seems that we only have limited options, protest the increase each year, and vote out the members of the taxing authorities when they come up for elections, or mount an initiative.

## FAMILY TIES

I have been informed that some members and employee's of the appraisal district have family ties to members of the taxing authorities. This is plain wrong



and contributes to the distrust of government that many of us have acquired.

Why don't we take a look at the bigger picture? Taxes are just one aspect of what is wrong with our country. Property taxes are local and affect us directly and the pain is felt immediately. If you are upset about where your tax dollars are spent on local, state, and national level, maybe you are like a lot of us ordinary folk.



There is so much fraud and waste that it boggles the mind, from war hero Randy "Duke" Cunningham to Rep William Jefferson, the corruption never stops.



We have all heard so many stories of \$600.00 commode covers and other outrageous overcharges by government contractors that we just laugh, shrug our shoulders, and go on. Well what if there was a way to change all that. We don't need better government, we need less government.

The vast majority of us can take care of ourselves and our families' just fine. Well all the candidates both mainstream Republicans and Democrats promise us more government, more spending, and more interference in our public, and private lives,( Schools, Internet spying,) , etc.

## WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

If you sincerely want to see a government that adheres in the US Constitution then I urge you to consider Congressman Ron Paul, R-TX for President. Congressman Paul is spreading a message that is beginning to resonate with the American public.

If you watched the Presidential Debate in New Hampshire then

maybe you experienced the reaction that Ron Paul is receiving from the public. I urge you to Google Ron Paul and find out more about what the Ron Paul REVOLUTION is all about.

## NEXT STEP

Go to myspace.com or youtube.com. Ask one of your neighbors about him. Come join us and find out how you can help to restore the Constitution.

Jay Jones

<http://ronpaul.meetup.com/318/>

