



TAXPAYERS UNITED MICHIGAN FOUNDATION

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Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer)

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Tax Deductible under IRS Code 501(c)(3). Founded 1976.

"Helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by units of government."

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SENIOR CITIZENS STILL RESIDING IN MICHIGAN ARE SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW WHEN "CREDITS" ARE REALLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL TAX HIKES BEING IMPOSED BY SNEAKY GOV. RICK SNYDER AND OATH VIOLATING REPUBLICAN STATE LEGISLATORS.

LANSING, MI., MAY 11, 2011 -- *Following are excerpts from today's testimony of Bill McMaster, State Chairman (Volunteer), Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation, to the State Senate Committee on Reforms, Restructuring & Reinventing:*

"Nobody, including Gov. Snyder, can take away the power we the people reserved for ourselves in our Michigan Constitution.

"We in Taxpayers United have been assuring Gov. Snyder and similarly inclined politicians since January that we will vigorously fight any "tax hike deal among elected state, county, city and township government office holders" which attempts to violate the Constitutional Right of grassroots taxpayers to vote Yes or No on any and all new or increased tax proposals. Without a statewide vote of the people, tax increases cannot be legally imposed.

"The 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment voted into our Michigan Constitution by the majority of statewide voters guarantees every family living in Michigan the Constitutional Right to vote Yes or No on State Government's unfair assault on the financial stability of retired citizens.

"Turncoat elected officials in our State Capitol are mistakenly asserting they and backroom lobbyists, with lapdog Lansing Press Corp cheerleading, can secretly increase our taxes within Gov. Snyder's proposed State Budget, and then receive legislative approval by May 31 for the 2012 Fiscal Year Budget starting Oct. 1, 2011.

"Proposed are \$350 million a year new Income Taxes on Retired Senior Citizens with Pensions (See page 29 of Substitute for House Bill No. 4361); \$227 million Increased Homestead Property Tax on Seniors (pages 88-95); and \$50 million from illegal collection of a new Internet Use Tax on purchases made by Michiganians outside of Michigan (See House Bill 4479). That amounts to \$627 million Legislators want to take from targeted Senior families each year.

"New taxes on seniors would ignore the bonus state revenue of \$500 million Gov. Snyder intends to acknowledge next Monday, May 16, 2011.

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Meanwhile, \$2 billion each year continues to go to politically connected businesses in the form of Corporate Welfare. No promised jobs have been created in the 12 years of economic development funding. Michigan's Unemployment Rate is consistently 20% Worse than the national average, often the worst in the U.S.

"The Headlee Amendment prohibits any new or increased taxes without a statewide vote of the people. All of the provisions of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment can be found under 'Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment'. Michigan Constitution, Article IX, Sections 6 and 25-33 at:

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/%28S%28my1ah045stzip355qiajuhyg%29%29/mileg.aspx?age=LoadVirtualDoc&BookmarkID=6536>

"As the Campaign Director for Dick Headlee when we were fighting for enactment of the Headlee Amendment in 1978, I and others still in Taxpayers United have been actively defending our Tax Limitation Amendment since its inception. We expect Governor Snyder and all politicians to respect their oath of office and uphold the Headlee Amendment defined in our Michigan's Constitution as the unaltered will of the people.

"According to Michigan Election Law, grassroots taxpayers must be given 70 days' advance notice of Gov. Snyder/ legislators' proposed ballot language before residents can exercise their Constitutional Right to vote Yes or No on it. That means the ballot language must be finalized by May 24, and presented to the people in order for it to appear on the August 2, 2011 statewide Primary Election ballot.

"Gov. Snyder's convoluted 'compromise plan' for a new Pension Income Tax would cost Seniors \$300 million each year. He hopes to extract a whopping 20% more from elderly families by increasing their annual Homestead Property Taxes. Both must meet the May 24th deadline in order to comply with the Headlee Amendment.

"Gov. Snyder and State legislators can cut taxes without the voted approval of the people (and we strongly support their committed election duty to do so), but they cannot raise or enact new taxes without violating the Constitutional Right of the majority of ordinary Michigan citizens to first vote their agreement to further burden their families with tens of millions of dollars in higher State taxes and spending."

Taxpayers United Michigan Foundation was founded in 1976 by Dick Headlee, then President of Alexander Hamilton Life Insurance Co., and Bill McMaster, then and now President of McMaster Marketing & PR, to successfully win statewide voter approval of the 1978 Headlee Tax Limitation Amendment. It has evolved into a tax deductible 501 (c)(3) under the IRS Code as a nonpartisan, nonprofit educational foundation helping educate grassroots taxpayers how to defend and control their Constitutional Rights despite exploitation by unethical public officials and units of government.

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