

Senate Majority Committee Clerks

From: Rose Bogaert <bogaert@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2015 8:29 PM
To: Senate Majority Committee Clerks
Subject: SB 630 and 631
Attachments: Judgment 2 2015-SIB-0631.pdf; Judgments 2015-SIB-0630.pdf

PLEASE PASS THIS ON TO THE COMMITTEE. I CONTACTED THEM INDIVIDUALLY BUT I USED THE WRONG BILL NUMBERS

December 14, 2015

Honorable Senators :

It is with much sincerity that I ask you to vote to allow Senate Bills 630 and 631 to pass out of committee. Voters in this state passed the Headlee Amendment to insure that they would be able to vote for tax increases. Unfortunately, local governments have been placing judgments against them on the tax bills in what we believe to be a violation of the Headlee Amendment. What makes this more egregious is that those people with escrow accounts don't even know what they are paying for.

Since the bill will be paid without choice by the taxpayers, judges and juries have less reason to be reasonable in their settlements and lawyers are likely to be less judicious in their request for settlements. Local units of government are likely to be less attentive in their hiring and maintenance when they will not be held financially responsible for any damages.

The 2015 summer taxes in Wayne County were increased by \$39 million dollars for judgments against it. In Inkster the taxes were increased by several million more for a judgment against the city. There is no way for voters to know when the taxes will increase unless the news media reports it. By then, it will be too late and the only alternative would be the courts at great expense and time. The voters have already spoken on this issue in the State Constitution.

Thank you in advance for your attention,

Rose Bogaert, Chair

Wayne County Taxpayers Association

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