

Mayors Corner

Stop State Tax Grab

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Not often does an issue warrant immediate action on the part of each and every household in our Village: this one does.

Some members of our State Legislature have targeted your local share of State income tax as part of a plan to help the State's budget crisis. Since the inception of a State income tax in 1969, 10 percent of what you pay in State income tax is returned to your local town to fund public safety, roads and services. Under existing law, the State is to collect the payments and return the local share.

In recent years, the State has delayed the return of this money for months to provide itself tax-free loans. Meanwhile, local towns have had to borrow with interest payments to continue to provide essential services.

Now, members on both sides of the political aisle in Springfield want to change the law to allow the State to keep All Income tax money and return Nothing to local towns.

This proposal to take away the local 10% share of income tax comes on top of a recent 66% State Income Tax Hike. When this Tax Hike passed January 12, the State Legislature voted to exclude local towns from receiving any new revenue generated by the increased rate. Again, the State took All the revenue.

Since 1969, the local share of income tax has gone to fund your local Police and Fire protection, put gas in the tanks of Police cars, Fire engines, and ambulances. It funds repairs of the roads in front of your home, and services such as leaf and branch pickup and snow removal.

Some in the State Legislature want local governments to raise taxes and fees to make up for this loss of funding. As your local government representatives, we Strongly Oppose any such action. Some in the State Legislature want you to believe that funding State-level programs and services should take priority over the Public Safety and essential services provided by each local town. We Strongly Disagree.

Local governments such as Willow Springs balance their budgets in tough financial times by cutting costs, combining or eliminating jobs, renegotiating better contracts with vendors, and sharing equipment and labor with other towns. The State needs to do the same without raiding local towns in the middle of an economic crisis.

Below are the names and contact numbers of public servants sworn to represent the families of our Village. If you live elsewhere, here is the State Board of Elections link to copy and paste into your internet browser to find your representatives to call:

<http://www.elections.state.il.us/districtlocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>

Please call family and friends and encourage them to do the same to help save services and keep taxes from increasing in their towns.

It is imperative you call each representative now. Please state your name, your address and state that you are calling to ask their Position on ANY CHANGES to the LGDF (Local Government Distributive Fund). If your representative is not available to speak with you, please leave the following message: "I am a registered voter in the Village of Willow Springs and I respectfully request Senator/Representative (_____) vote NO to ANY CHANGES TO THE LGDF or any REDUCTION OR DIVERSION of My Local Share of State Income Tax. Thank you."

Please be polite. Please let your voice be heard and help keep your income tax dollars working for you in your town.

Willow Springs Residents Please Call:

Senator Edward D. Maloney	18th Legislative District	217-782-5145
Senator Steven M. Landek	11th Legislative District	217-782-0054
Representative Michael Madigan	22nd Legislative District	217-782-5350