

Tax Revolt update

staff
November 18, 2007

Regarding the 1,000 petitions filed before Jan. 15, 2007 appealing the assessed values for the 2007-2008 fiscal year:

On Sept. 28, those appeals were heard before the State Board of Equalization. The board offered a settlement proposed by Washoe County Assessor Josh Wilson, similar to the settlement most of the 300 appellants accepted for the 2006-2007 tax year. The Village League to Save Incline Assets denied the settlement.

The State Board of Equalization then ruled in favor of the Assessor's settlement and will issue "written decisions" to those 1,000 petitioners.

Those decisions will be in the form of a "Supplemental Tax Bill" from the county treasurer's office, which will raise taxes for those 1,000 petitioners who already have been issued lower tax bills based on the Washoe County Board of Equalization's decision in February 2006, which was to reduce property assessments for the 2007-2008 year to their 2002-2003 values.

The written decisions should be mailed out by the end of the month.

Suellen Fulstone, the attorney representing the Village League to Save Incline Assets, the nonprofit group of Incline tax revolters, will file a lawsuit for judicial review when the state equalization board issues those written decisions for the 2007-2008 appellants, according to the Village League's Web site - www.nevadapropertytaxrevolt.org.

Fulstone also filed a lawsuit for judicial review earlier this month regarding the 300 appellants who accepted the assessor's refund settlement for the 2006-2007 tax year. The "amended complaint and petition for judicial review" is filed against the Nevada Board of Equalization and Washoe County.

The lawsuit, which was filed Nov. 1 in Carson City District Court, argues that the refunds received by the 300 petitioners were less than what was promised to them when the settlement first was proposed.

Specifically, the lawsuit asks for four courses of action:

- That the settlement decision from the State Board be set aside and the decision of the 2006 Washoe County Board of Equalization (February 2006) be reinstated.
- That the 300 taxpayers be refunded the total amount of excess taxes that were paid for the 2006-2007 tax year.
- That the 300 taxpayers be refunded for damages for specific performance by the county of their contractual obligations under the settlement agreements or damages.
- That the 300 taxpayers be refunded for attorney fees incurred during the matter.

Attorneys for the state and county have until Dec. 1 (30 days) to reply to the complaint.

Washoe County Assessor's Office important names and numbers

- Josh Wilson, Assessor (775) 328-2203
- John Faulkner, Chief Deputy Assessor (775) 328-2205
- Theresa Wilkins, Chief Appraiser (775) 328-2269
- Ivy Diezel, Support Analyst (775) 328-2273
- Carol Buonanoma, Mapping Supervisor (775) 328-2225
- Mark Stafford, Senior Appraiser (775) 328-2213
- Sue Dufva, Administrative Assistant (775) 328-2200
- Angie Phillips, Principal Account Clerk (775) 328-2606

Some important tax dates

- July 1 - Lien Date
- July 1 through June 30 - Washoe County's Fiscal Year
- Jan. 1 - Close of Real Property roll; deadline for mailing value notices to property owners
- Jan. 15 - Deadline for appeals to County Board of Equalization
- March 10 - Deadline for appeals to State Board of Equalization

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