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that is morally wrong.*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Sen. Gibbons Informs Taxpayers of \$46.6 Million in Back Door Tax Hikes by St. Louis County Boards**

### ***Only 15 Taxing Jurisdictions Roll back to be "Friends of Taxpayers"***

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KIRKWOOD – Only 15 of nearly 80 taxing jurisdictions operating in St. Louis County voted to roll back their tax rates to protect taxpayers from higher taxes caused by reassessment. Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons, R-Kirkwood, said that districts not rolling back have collectively increased property taxes by \$46.6 million, not including new construction exceptions.

"\$46.6 million in back door taxes is unacceptable," Gibbons said. "Taxpayers have the right to know which elected boards are protecting them and which ones aren't."

Gibbons released data showing all taxing jurisdictions not operating at their tax rate ceilings and the amount their budgets grew since 2006. He noted those rolling back to within one and half percent of the rate of inflation increase allowed by the Hancock Amendment acted as "Friends of Taxpayers." Gibbons said taxpayers can see for themselves how much the other districts benefited from reassessment windfalls by not voting to roll back.

"Legally, these taxing jurisdictions did not have to roll back, but morally, I think they should have," Gibbons said. "I commend the 15 districts that did right by its taxpayers."

Gibbons, who will pre-file legislation to reform property taxes, said now is the time.

"For years, St. Louis County was the only place feeling the harm of tax increases caused by reassessment," Gibbons said. "Now it is a problem throughout the state and I will fight to pass legislation that will end back door tax increases caused by reassessment."

Gibbons will announce details of the legislation in the coming weeks. A list denoting reassessment windfalls for all taxing jurisdictions not operating at their tax rate ceiling can be found by visiting [www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov), clicking on the link for the [Pro Tem's Page](#), and clicking on [Friends of Taxpayers](#).

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Gibbons commended the following districts for being a **Friend of Taxpayers** by voluntarily rolling back within 1.5% to only allow for revenue growth at the current rate of inflation:

1. City of Charlack, General Revenue
2. Village of Country Life Acres, General Revenue
3. City of Edmundson, General Revenue
4. City of Flordell Hills, General Revenue
5. City of Huntleigh, General Revenue
6. City of Kirkwood, Pension
7. Fenton Fire Protection District, General Revenue
8. Mehlville Fire Protection District, General Revenue and Ambulance
9. Robertson Fire Protection District, General Revenue and Dispatch
10. Shrewsbury Branch RDP Sewer, General Revenue
11. Hancock Street Light District St. Louis, General Revenue
12. Affton 101 School District, Operating Funds-School
13. Clayton School District, Operating Funds-School
14. Normandy School District, Operating Funds-School
15. University City School District, Operating Funds-School

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