

Submitter: Lloyd and Donna Werner

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Rules

Measure: HJR201

HJR 201

- Real and Personal Property Taxes are for the purpose of funding local jurisdictions needs, not statewide funding needs. Statewide funding needs should come from State income tax sources rather than taxing individual real and personal property taxes.
- “Throwing money at a problem” is a very ineffective method of solving a problem and shows poor or absence of leadership skills. First, there needs to be a specific plan (budget) on how the money will be spent and evidence that this plan is credible. “Throwing money at a problem” without a preplanned approach with appropriate controls on how the money would be spent to prevent fraud or misuse opens the door to misuse of the funds and fraudulent use of the funds thus created.
- HJR 201 states that “the tax shall be used solely to fund public safety and reasonable costs associated with administering the tax and the funding of public safety”. This is very ambiguous language. What is covered by the term “public safety”? I can envision State Legislators as being deemed public individuals so that the tax monies raised by this measure might be spent for their personal safety and security. Not good! This HJR “screams” for the misuse of the taxes thus raised!
- This HJR would raise residential property taxes which would typically be passed on to renters in the form of increased rent. This increased rent would only tend to increase the homeless population rather than to reduce it...which is what you State Representatives should be working on instead of this ridiculous HJR 201!
- In conclusion, there are many more reasons that could be listed that show why this HJR is not appropriate. It is poorly conceived, very likely would do nothing to increase public safety and it is ludicrous to believe that it should be embedded in our State Constitution! It should die in committee! I am embarrassed to live in a State that has such incompetent or unethical legislators that would even think of sponsoring Legislation such as HJR 201. Whoever sponsored this HJR should hang their face in shame.