

Trustees
Dennis B. Crosby
Mary C. Dominiak
Jerry T. Johnson



Trustees
Jay Jozwiak
Scott A. Pierce
Ted P. Poulos

Lawrence M. Hanson, Mayor
Lori K. Folbrick, Village Clerk

The Honorable Bruce Rauner
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

February 25, 2015

All of us know that sacrifice and tough decisions come during hard times, but so do common sense, logic and reason. The state is dealing with a massive budgetary mess of its own making – made through years and years of putting off pension payments and borrowing and spending beyond its limits – none of which is the fault of local governments or their elected officials. In fact, during that same time, municipal governments balanced their budgets every year, provided for the health, safety and welfare of their residents, invested in infrastructure improvements, and were able to do all of that under the pressure of property tax limitations, declining revenues, unfunded state mandates, and pension benefit sweeteners sent out from the capitol building.

Now is not the time to penalize our city hall for their good stewardship of the local share of state income taxes. Why should our hometowns suffer the drastic cuts being proposed against local governments when they didn't create the problem?

Based on the numbers reported, a 50% cut in the municipal share of income taxes would result in a reduction of \$714,285.00 to my community. Along with a proposed property tax freeze and the likelihood of more unfunded mandates from the state, how are our elected leaders supposed to find the dollars to pay for critical local services? We have already made the tough decisions and we are already operating efficiently and effectively, especially when compared to the state. We balance our budget every year and we watch each dollar to make sure it is returned to the local taxpayers through quality programs and services. When these cuts are passed down to the local level, the message being sent is: thanks for doing the right thing, now you have to pay again for our mistakes.

Please take a stand against the unnecessary and unrealistic cuts that have been proposed against local governments. This is not a case of "don't cut my pet program," this is a case of common sense governing.

Thank you for your support.



Lawrence Hanson
Village of Antioch

Cc: Senator Pamela Althoff, Senator Melinda Bush, Representative Barbara Wheeler and Representative Sherry Jesiel; File