

My name is Connie Samuelson, Minot, ND

I along with many others who signed the Petition to end the wasteful spending in Bismarck and eliminate property taxes in ND oppose this bill. Where is the local control?

A few comments from average ND, residents who supported M4:

1- True/Assessed values are set by the State and this is not a fair and is a very complicated taxation system. End it.

2 - Owners should not be penalized for improvements made to their properties. Safer and better living arrangements, increases values therefore, the State increases the property tax.

3- When the State removes tax liabilities from some, that burden gets placed on someone else. RZ, TIFs, new construction, first time home buyers, farm building, schools, City, County, hospitals etc. Get rid of all State sanctioned exemptions.

4- Eliminate difficult to understand formulas, credits and systems, such as and mills, credits, HSTC, DVTC, assess values and, true & full valuations.... The State required formulas are too complicated. Simplify them (get rid of Vanguard.)

5- The State Representatives do not support using Legacy Funds, because they will “run out”.

Here are some their very sound suggestions for property tax reform:

- a) The state pays 100% for K-12. (In a round-a-bout way, session by session, you already are.)
School building allowances would come from the Common School Trust Fund and **only** academics paid for by the state. The schools need to decide between gyms and data centers; track-fields and science labs; free meals and educational materials.
- b) Remove property tax based on valuations and intrusive visits from city assessors.
We do not support square footage. The state would find a way to make that expensive and complicated; and it would also require invasive visits.
- c) Eliminate ALL exemptions: RZ, TIF, farms, homestead etc..
If this really results in economic development, you are stagnating growth by choosing winners and losers.
- d) Remove the foreclosure clause for delinquent property tax payments.
Bought and paid for, should result in true ownership.
- e) Do not support caps on local government.
M4 was brought on because it is the state who needs to cut their spending and involvement in local property mandates. If revenue needs to be increased at the local level, it is up to the residents to determine a route, not the state.
- f) Current property taxes pay for services, not properties. Implement a sales (service) tax.
This bill along with so many others proposed makes' property tax even MORE complicated than it currently is.

Thank you for your time and consideration.