



**Pledge to Restore Economic Freedom to Texas Citizens
Through Elimination of Property Tax**

Whereas, historical and empirical evidence clearly documents that there are many economic and freedom benefits to Texas and her citizens if the current property tax structure were to be eliminated and local government and schools funded instead with a sales tax;

I, therefore, support these basic principles:

- Property tax destroys property ownership which our founders understood as an inalienable right
- As empirical data shows it is detrimental to prosperity,
- The abolishing of property taxes is essential, if we love liberty and freedom,
- Any replacement tax must be simple to implement, easy to understand and transparent to the citizens;
- Any replacement tax must be revenue neutral to the current tax system with local jurisdictions retaining the authority to limit future growth or reductions in the tax rate.

Furthermore I Pledge:

As a local elected official or candidate if elected, to work with my constituents and colleagues to support legislation which will abolish the current property tax system. Such funding would be replaced with a consumption, sales or similar tax, which would be revenue neutral. **The rate of increase for this tax should be determined by each local jurisdiction but, in keeping with efforts to limit government growth, be limited to the rate growth of population plus inflation unless otherwise authorized by a 2/3s vote of the citizens of such jurisdiction.**

Name
(Print) _____

Signature _____

Office Held/Sought _____

Date _____



The Case for Eliminating Property Tax in the State of Texas

The Historical Case for Private Property

History shows our Founding Fathers believed that private property ownership is, first and foremost, a freedom issue.

Thomas Jefferson said, "Nothing is ours, which another may deprive us of" and the current property tax enables such deprivation of man's property by government;

Jean Baptiste-Say noted "[O]f all the means by which a government can stimulate production, there is none so powerful as the perfect security of person and property, especially from the aggressions of arbitrary power. This security is of itself a source of public prosperity..."

Frederic Bastiat, stated "When property is transferred without the consent of its owner and without compensation . . . I say that property rights have been violated, that plunder (theft) has been committed."

State of the State and the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) Study

The United States is now ranked at 8th among nations of the world on the Economic Freedom Index published by the Heritage Institute,

Texas was ranked 31 among the 50 states on the 2008 U.S. Economic Freedom Index by Pacific Coast Research Institute,

Texas indebtedness has grown from \$12 billion in 2000 to \$31.4 billion in 2009 according to the Texas Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

According to a 2009 study by the Texas Public Policy Foundation (TPPF) property taxes:

- Cause the greatest negative impact on the economy of all forms of taxation
- Are unrelated to taxpayers ability to pay;
- Are more costly and more complicated to administer; and
- Discourage capital-intensive industries from locating in Texas.

Furthermore, the TPPF study projected that:

If property taxes were replaced with a consumption tax, personal income in the state of Texas could potentially increase in the range of \$3.1 billion to \$3.3 in the first year. Over a five-year period if the property tax were replaced dollar for dollar with a higher sales tax, personal income could, on a cumulative basis, increase by \$21.3 billion and \$52.1 billion. The proposed tax reforms would lead to a net gain of new jobs; during a five-year horizon, between 127,700 and 312,700 over the job growth Texas would have had no tax reform been implemented.

By abolishing property taxes, we can restore personal liberty; increase the incentive to work and produce; increase the overall prosperity of the individual; and, the State and begin to reduce debt.

Under the property tax system, true land ownership as envisioned by the Founding Fathers has been destroyed – we only rent our land from the government. Abolishing property taxes would increase the standard of living for all and help restore true property ownership to Texas citizens.