

# PROPERTY TAXES IN SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA, 2007-2008



Legislative Services Agency

August 2008

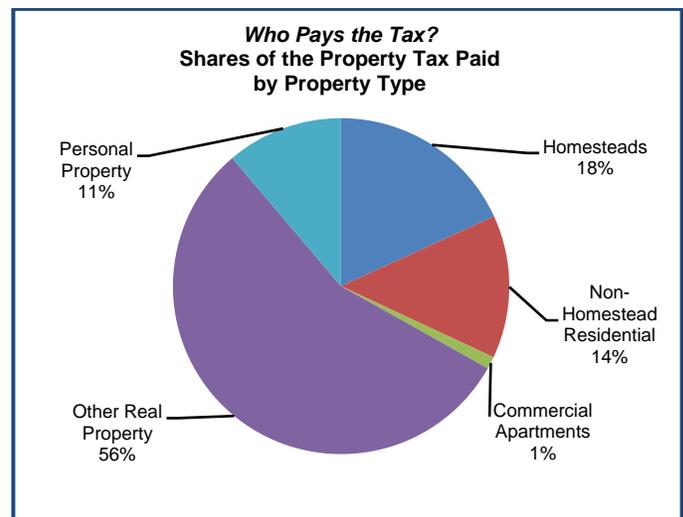
The Indiana General Assembly enacted major property tax reforms in 2008. These reforms are intended to provide substantial tax relief to homeowners. Starting in 2009, property taxes for the school general fund, county welfare funds, and several other funds will be eliminated, and their costs taken over by the state. Homeowners will also receive a substantial new deduction from their home assessments. And “circuit breakers” will limit homeowner tax bills to a fixed percentage of their assessments, 1.5% in 2009 and 1% beginning in 2010. The circuit breaker for homeowners is 2% in 2008.

In 2008, substantial tax relief is provided through an added homestead credit. The credit will be financed with payments from the new race track casinos and from the added sales tax. Statewide, this amounts to added property tax relief of \$870 million. Homeowner taxes should fall by about one-third. Each county is different, however. Homeowner tax bills depend on changes in the homestead’s assessment and the assessments of other property, on changes in local government tax collections, on new local income tax adoptions, as well as on added state credits. Switzerland County did not adopt a new local option income tax for 2008.

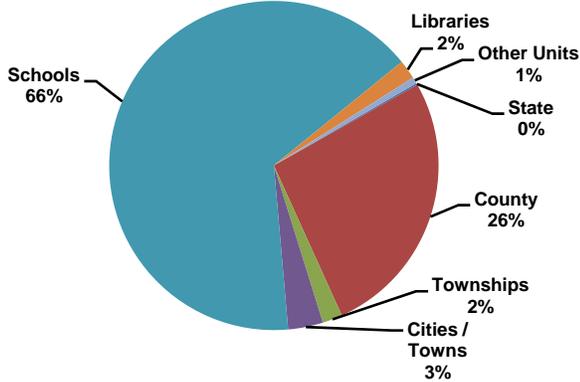
In Switzerland County, the average homeowner saw their tax bill decrease by 36.6% for 2008, with 94.0% seeing decreases. Without the added homestead credit, the average tax bill would have increased by 5.9%, and 84.0% of homeowners would have seen tax bill increases.

In Switzerland County, 18% of property taxes are paid by homeowners (homesteads are primary residences, occupied by their owners); 14% are paid by owners of smaller rental housing units or owners of second homes (non-homestead residential); 1% are paid by owners of larger rental housing units (commercial apartments); and 67% are paid by other agricultural, commercial, industrial, or utility businesses on their real property (land and buildings) or on their personal property (equipment).

| Change in Tax Bill         | With Added 2008 Homestead Credit |                  | Illustrated Without Added 2008 Homestead Credit |                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|
|                            | Number of Homesteads             | % Share of Total | Number of Homesteads                            | % Share of Total |
| 20% or more                | 82                               | 3.3%             | 151   | 6.0%             |
| 10% to 19%                 | 3                                | 0.1%             | 105   | 4.2%             |
| 1% to 9%                   | 9                                | 0.4%             | 1,861   | 73.8%            |
| 0%                         | 58                               | 2.3%             | 57  | 2.3%             |
| -1% to -9%                 | 28                               | 1.1%             | 113   | 4.5%             |
| -10% to -19%               | 50                               | 2.0%             | 34  | 1.3%             |
| -20% to -29%               | 179                              | 7.1%             | 37  | 1.5%             |
| -30% to -39%               | 588                              | 23.3%            | 27  | 1.1%             |
| -40% to -49%               | 1,303                            | 51.7%            | 38  | 1.5%             |
| -50% to -59%               | 61                               | 2.4%             | 34  | 1.3%             |
| -60% to -69%               | 59                               | 2.3%             | 14  | 0.6%             |
| -70% to -79%               | 48                               | 1.9%             | 5   | 0.2%             |
| -80% to -89%               | 9                                | 0.4%             | 8   | 0.3%             |
| -90% to -99%               | 8                                | 0.3%             | 1   | 0.0%             |
| -100%                      | 36                               | 1.4%             | 36  | 1.4%             |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>2,521</b>                     | <b>100.0%</b>    | <b>2,521</b>                                    | <b>100.0%</b>    |
| Higher Tax Bill            | 94                               | 3.7%             | 2,117   | 84.0%            |
| No Change                  | 58                               | 2.3%             | 57  | 2.3%             |
| Lower Tax Bill             | 2,369                            | 94.0%            | 347   | 13.7%            |
| Average Change in Tax Bill | -36.6%                           |                  | 5.9%  |                  |



**Who Gets the Revenue?**  
**Property Tax Levies by Government Type**



On average, Switzerland County property tax levies increased 10.4% from 2007 to 2008. This is higher than the expected statewide average increase of 5%. The Switzerland County School Corporation levy for bus replacement saw the largest increase.

In Switzerland County, the school corporation receives 66% of all property taxes. The county receives most of the rest. The towns, the townships, the library district, the solid waste management district, and the state collect a small share of property taxes.

In 2009 the school and county shares of property tax revenue will decrease significantly when the state takes over the school general fund and county welfare levies.

**Changes in Property Tax Levies from 2007 to 2008**  
**by Governmental Units in Switzerland County**

| Taxing Unit  | 2007<br>Levy | 2008<br>Levy | Change |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------|
| <i>County Total</i>                                  | \$6,814,739  | \$7,526,857  | 10.4%  |
| State Unit   | 11,664       | 12,383       | 6.2%   |
| Switzerland County                                   | 1,905,600    | 1,986,878    | 4.3%   |
| Cotton Township                                      | 19,589       | 19,608       | 0.1%   |
| Craig Township                                       | 17,749       | 17,867       | 0.7%   |
| Jefferson Township                                   | 37,201       | 37,365       | 0.4%   |
| Pleasant Township                                    | 18,332       | 19,102       | 4.2%   |
| Posey Township                                       | 18,830       | 18,906       | 0.4%   |
| York Township  | 35,793       | 34,563       | -3.4%  |
| Patriot Civil Town                                   | 6,537        | 6,317        | -3.4%  |
| Vevay Civil Town                                     | 253,307      | 251,117      | -0.9%  |
| Switzerland County School Corporation                | 4,313,233    | 4,933,402    | 14.4%  |
| Switzerland County Public Library                    | 129,762      | 141,367      | 8.9%   |
| Southeastern Indiana Solid Waste Management District | 47,142       | 47,982       | 1.8%   |