

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illinois Government Watchdog David Jenkins Takes on Powerful House Speaker with SPEAKERMADIGAN.COM

Cicero, IL — February 9, 2010 — In an effort to provide transparency and accountability to Illinois state government, Cicero resident David “Watchdog” Jenkins, is asking people to visit a site where he’s posted the property characteristics occupied by Illinois House Representatives who voted to eliminate the 7% cap:

WWW.SPEAKERMADIGAN.COM

All of the posted Representatives on this site represent state legislative districts within Cook County:

Illinois State Representative	Representative District	Assessor's Office Estimated Market Value	Assessor's Office Most Recent Tax Year Available	2008 Taxes Paid in 2009	Effective Rate of Taxation
LaShawn Ford	8th	163,880	2009	1,416.53	0.8644%
Marlow Colvin	33rd	165,580	2009	1,681.66	1.0156%
Luis Arroyo	3rd	345,280	2009	3,603.62	1.0437%
Cynthia Soto	4th	472,320	2009	5,035.27	1.0661%
Barbara Flynn Curie	25th	330,850	2009	3,816.58	1.1536%
Maria Antonia "Toni" Berrios	39th	443,210	2009	5,145.25	1.1609%
Joseph Lyons	19th	375,110	2009	4,356.08	1.1613%
Mary Flowers	31st	99,756	2008	1,164.27	1.1671%
John D'Amico	15th	505,060	2009	6,238.12	1.2351%
Kenneth Dunkin	5th	231,000	2009	2,895.48	1.2535%
Deborah Graham	78th	294,210	2009	3,695.61	1.2561%
Michael McAuliffe*	20th	651,600	2009	8986.66*	1.3792%
Arthur Turner	9th	324,230	2009	4,557.46	1.4056%
Constance Howard	34th	128,550	2009	1,878.05	1.4609%
Kevin McCarthy	37th	348,390	2009	5,186.96	1.4888%
Jim Durkin	82nd	639,850	2009	9,769.29	1.5268%
Lou Lang	16th	381,840	2009	6,126.35	1.6044%
Angelo "Skip" Saviano	77th	336,010	2009	5,933.52	1.7659%
Karen Yarbrough	7th	182,260	2009	3,261.36	1.7894%
Kevin Joyce	35th	211,275	2008	3,893.24	1.8427%
Mike Madigan	22nd	208,669	2008	3,854.77	1.8473%
Monique Davis	27th	324,038	2008	6,486.15	2.0017%
Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez	24th	213,020	2009	4,364.91	2.0491%
Daniel Burke	23rd	174,994	2008	3,751.57	2.1438%
Fred Crespo	44th	176,675	2008	4,100.70	2.3210%
Al Riley	38th	177,830	2009	4,829.63	2.7159%
David Miller*	29th	209,619	2008	8324.58*	3.9713%

**Representatives Michael McAuliffe and David Miller did not claim the homeowner's exemption for their homes, which might raise concerns about whether they actually live in the districts that they represent.*

Referring to his home in Cicero, currently being taxed at 3.02% of its estimated market value according to public records available at the Cook County Assessor's Office, Mr. Jenkins feels that legislators have asked him to pay for their burden of taxes with the passage of HB0664 in the 95th General Assembly.

"People often tell me that I should appeal my taxes to the Assessor's Office, Board of Review, or Property Tax Appeals Board, and I have," Mr. Jenkins comments. "But they do not understand that my problem isn't necessarily just with the assessment of my home. It's mostly in the alternative homeowner's exemption created in Springfield, which is unfairly distributed from one parcel of property to the next. And since this [exemption] item is heavily weighted in the formula that the General Assembly extends to Cook County through state property tax code, my real 'appeal' has to be for the state legislature to start producing better laws."

Mr. Jenkins is asking Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez's Office to take a close look at this new site now, and in the future; where he believes that public records will indicate that laws have been broken by several state officials. Of equal importance, he believes that lawmakers have, perhaps, taken far better care of themselves than the constituents they represent.

Mr. Jenkins adds, "If you believe public records, the value of my home has declined from \$230,000, when I purchased it in 2006, to \$185,490. During that same period of time, my taxes increased from \$3,841.20 to \$5,607.47. If this type of taxation isn't a crime, it should be."

For More Information:

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