

PREDICTION: TAXICANE HARRIS

It is a damn sad state of economic affairs when all we have in our tool box to fight the tax decisions of non-elected public officials is a request for charity. However well intended and creative, such charity from tax recipients may work on another planet, but here on planet earth, such a request is doomed to failure to accomplish a solution.

There is a tax storm coming led by the dictates of unelected Ohio Tax Commissioner Harris and Taxicane Harris will strike a wide path in Butler County.

I gave a legislative solution to take away her dictatorial and discretionary excessive tax increase by limiting her discretion and mandating a simple, workable formula, but government critics such as legislators and auditors from other counties saw it as only a temporary fix. One representative of the county auditors association threatened, "Don't mess with how we decide to tax." Well, I for one would rather have temporary money in my pocket than none at all. There are plenty of tax and spend politicians in other counties who consider our money to be just our temporary condition until they can get their hands on it. Senator George Lang did step in to support my proposal as has Rep. Hall along with other supporters, and I am told there is new life to my proposal with a few changes. So far, however- just delay until the legislative clock runs out with nothing done except the increase as ordered by Tax Commissioner Harris.

Voters are getting wise to that clock and how it works so that no one person or party is responsible for failure. "It's the clock's fault. Time just ran out", we are told. "Sorry. Better luck next year, if you want to try again." That's the legislative answer for legislative failure.

So what can actually be done? What good advice can this summit actually give to the tax aggrieved? Like any hurricane, preparation may be the only option, and we all need to point out to our constituents the necessary steps to challenge- appeal- an unfair tax increase to our individual properties. Our auditor has those steps on her web site and I would like all other elected officials in Butler County to do likewise or at least post a link to it like our new treasurer has. I have tasked my outreach director to place simplified steps on my web site and a link to the auditor's, and I ask all of you here today to follow her lead in some informative way.

Michael T. Gmoser
Butler County, Ohio Prosecutor