

House Taxation  
Date: 1/26/2012  
Attachment: 1A 1A

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January 19, 2012

RE: HB2176

As the County Clerk and Election Officer for Miami County, I respectfully request that you **not** support HB2176. The change of budget submission date to the County Clerk's office from August 25th to September 25th would cause a hardship for all County Clerk's for the following reasons.

1. In Miami County we have 42 taxing districts. When their budgets are submitted they are reviewed for fund or mill levy limits and compliance with statutes, including publication dates and notices. If any problems are detected, the entity is contacted to work out any problems or concerns.
2. The real estate deed cutoff for Miami County is September 30. When all deeds have been processed of that date, we begin the process of finalizing assessed values. Notify the home county that we share a taxing entity with of the value for our County so that they can begin to set their levies. After that notification to the neighbor county we begin to set our mill levies. Before setting the levies though, we must verify that we have received value from our neighboring counties that we share a district with and then compute and inform them of the levy amount. If we have supplied a value to a County then we are waiting to receive certification of the levy they have computed.
3. The taxes can begin to be computed after all of step 2 has been completed and verified. The tax year begins on November 1, so to get all of the above done by that day is a stretch with a budget submission of August 25, let alone if the date was changed to September 25. To meet those deadlines, it would appear to me that it would increase the opportunity for errors. Those errors will impact the taxpayers as well as the taxing entities, and is one of those things that we strive to alleviate as many errors during that process as possible. The state requires us to submit several abstracts on or before November 15th, that reports our finalized value and tax roll amounts also.

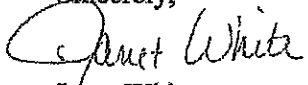
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4. Please also take into consideration that during that process we are still holding Commission Meetings, processing Accounts Payable and in even numbered years we are responsible for conducting a General Election. During a Presidential Election year, the interest in voting increases substantially and to handle the increase of voters for that election becomes a full time job for just that duty. Advance voting begins approximately the middle of October and before that can happen ballots have to be prepared.

I appreciate the time that you have taken to read my concerns that would affect our office but also please consider the impact that it would have on our taxpayers and voters if an error occurred during either of those processes during that time.

In closing I respectfully request that you **not** support HB2176.

Sincerely,



Janet White  
Miami County Clerk & Election Officer