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# Congrats to the Village League

Seven lawsuits, one call for the county assessor's removal on malfeasance grounds, three years and thousands of hours of community outreach including (and not limited to) phone calls, emails, web updates, fliers and more chats over coffee than Starbucks could shake a stick at and finally ... major court victories.

While two judgments from Carson City district court judges came down in less than a week in the leagues' favor - possibly opening up a window for a historic tax rebate/rollback some five years to 2001 - we believe the greater accomplishment of the group is its on-going persistence; a reminder that the old phrase 'all politics begins at home' is literally the truth.

In one ruling, a district judge said the 17 homeowners (backed by the league) who protested their assessments for the 2004-05 tax year were in fact correct in saying that the home values were not congruous with neighboring parts of the basin - especially Douglas County.

But here's where the persistence comes in: The league has lost two cases on the same issue already before the county and state boards of equalization before filing the lawsuit in the district court.

While some might say this is the case of a deep-pocketed group that keep filing

lawsuits until they can find a court to give them the answer they want, it is after all their right, (and maybe ironically) as taxpayers to do so ... Perhaps, in the process, whether the final vote is with them or against, a real opportunity for the truth to be told has been created by the league.

While not everyone agrees with the notion that the group is fighting an already tax friendly region of the country, a bi-partisan look at what the group is really setting out to do reveals that their David vs. Goliath mentality is something to be admired (even if David, in this case, instead of throwing stones, owns a home a stone's throw from the lake).

The McGowan case is being heard by the Nevada Supreme Court and surely, the county will be monitoring whether they are accountable for a re-assessment once the current tax assessment case is re-reviewed by the state board of equalization.

Of course, even if the state board sides in the county's favor you can bet the Village League will be there with one more appeal - to the Nevada Supreme Court.

We laud the Village League's grass-roots efforts, their determination and their persistence. Their hard work will take them far, and hopefully benefit all Incline Village and Crystal Bay property owners.