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## **New tax board yields positive results**

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Members of the Village League to Save Incline Assets, upset that many of their almost 600 pending tax appeals would be reviewed by a new tax board, received some good news Tuesday.

The league's concerns that the new tax panel would go against a previous panel's decision to enable land owners to consolidate their property tax appeals into one hearing were assuaged when the new panel voted to consolidate, league spokeswoman Maryanne Ingemanson said.

"We have more than 200 appellants that had signed an authorization form for attorney Tom Hall to represent them as a group before the county board of equalization," she said. "The new panel (unanimously voted) to allow us to consolidate all of these hearings so we don't have 200-some people having to go as individuals. That was a big win."

The original panel, which some league members speculated did not curry favor with the county after voting last year to reduce taxable land values by 8 percent for more than 1,200 Incline property owners

represented by the league, was supplanted by one that "seems reasonable" Ingemanson said.

Earlier this month, the league won two decisions from Carson City District Court judges which they feel may eventually lead to a property tax "roll back" to 2001.

"Things are so refreshing it seems like we've been running in molasses uphill for four years," Ingemanson said. "Things are starting to be much more positive...."

The county DA's office, civil division, has already started the appeal process on the district court decisions to the Nevada State Supreme Court. At the same time, the league's effort to have Washoe County Assessor Bob McGowan removed from office is currently under review pending court approval of its validity to be heard in front of the state supreme court.

Representatives from assessor's office said they will go about "business as usual" while waiting for the courts to decide.

"Until we get a definitive statement we'll continue to do things the way we've done," said John Faulkner, chief deputy assessor in the wake of the district court decisions earlier this month.