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# Incline tax group eyes next legislature

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It's been one month since the justices of the Nevada Supreme Court heard arguments for and against upholding district court judge William Maddox's decision to invalidate county assessor's land valuation efforts for 17 Incline Village property owners.

Though the supreme court decision isn't expected to come down until early fall, Incline Village's tax revolt group representatives said this week that new work is being done on the legislative level to ensure "(inequitable valuations) don't happen again and that there is permanent accountability."

"When you're really trying to do something and make it work, you have to button down the edges," said Village League to Save Incline Assets president Maryanne Ingemanson. "We really need get this solid (in the legislature) -so it's not the same thing over and over. Frankly, I don't think anyone had any idea of the enormity of this problem."

Ingemanson, who said Incline revolters are willing to continue the fight in spite of the daunting amount of time and money required to see the property tax appeal process through, recognized how hard it is for other Nevadans to take on their assessors.

"If the (taxation) boards do something wrong, it's like 'oh well, they didn't do that correctly' - there's no punishment, no accountability and that needs to be addressed by the legislature," Ingemanson said. "As long as that's in place, no

taxpayer will get relief - the amount you're going to get in return is minuscule compared to the amount you'll spend (fighting) to get your money back -it's just not right."

Ingemanson said she hopes the next legislative session (to begin Feb. 5, 2007) will feature, especially if the supreme court decision falls into the revolters' favor, discussion on how to make the process for tax relief and equalization more equitable.

"We are very eager to talk to the legislatures, so we can get this whole thing cleaned up," Ingemanson said.

If the supreme court upholds Maddox's decision, many in the tax revolt group feel a wholesale roll-back of property taxes for Incline Village/Crystal Bay land holders could occur to the tune of \$30 million - but the eventual decision could render more than money some revolters said.

Some revolters refer to statements made by supreme court justices during last month's hearing as a proof.

"With all due respect," Justice Michael Douglas addressed attorney for the county assessor's office Terry Shea, "we have laws in this state that are plain not good."

Some revolt group members said they are also "looking forward to" other pending decisions being affected by the supreme court ruling.

"I guess if there was a such thing as 'down time' in my life now would be that time," Ingemanson said. "But, we're not close to being done."

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