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Waiting for a ruling

Andrew Pridgen

Bonanza News Editor,
apridgen@tahoebonanza.com
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Ninety days and counting. That's where Incline Village's own tax revolt group stands as they've just passed the three-month mark since their day in Carson City in front of the state supreme court.

Ninety days and still no decision, Nevada Supreme Court staff noted Thursday.

A court decision was due in "three to six months" whether to uphold district court judge William Maddox's decision that four of the valuation methods used by Washoe County assessors were not permissible. Rebates, Maddox said, to 17 property holders should be levied with interest.

League to Save Incline Assets members said they feel a favorable decision by the state supreme court upholding Maddox could lead to a wholesale rebate of property taxes to some 8,700 landholders in the Incline Village/Crystal Bay area back to 2002, which could be up to \$30 million.

Tax revolt members said they remain patient with the case's outcome because of the far-reaching ramifications of the decision.

"We still feel strongly we'll get a favorable decision," tax revolt group president Maryanne Ingemanson said. "Because of the enormity of the

problem, trying to solve it is extraordinarily difficult.

"I see this case as a Rubik's Cube. If you have to move one tile, you have to move eight others. They're trying to come to some kind of a decision because this really does effect the entire state - it's the biggest case (of its kind) ever in the history of Nevada."

Similarly, on a statewide level, tax revolters are hoping 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.

Revolters also said they're looking forward to the retirement of current assessor Bob McGowan. His successor will be named in the November election.

For the time being, however, "first thing's first," one revolter said.

"It's now just Thursday to Thursday," Ingemanson said of the day of the week that all state supreme court decisions are released. "It is a bit of a grind because all related hearings are on hold, everything is on suspended animation.

"We are eagerly awaiting the ruling. Lots of folks are leaving for the winter asking 'are we going to know anything?' but we have no way of predicting."

News editor Andrew Pridgen may be reached at (775) 831-4666 ext. 111 or at apridgen@tahoebonanza.com.