

Tax revolters wait for court decision

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Incline Village's tax-revolt group this week recoiled from the Nevada elections, yet took a hopeful tact at the year ahead.

While the League to Save Incline Assets' selection for county assessor, the outspoken Tom Koziol, only garnered 5 percent of the popular vote, victories by Ty Cobb and James Settlemyer in the legislature give some hope that upcoming session in February will be a productive one for the revolters and those who support them.

"We did have a huge amount of sway over the voting of the people here and their friends in Reno too," league president Maryanne Ingemanson said. "We were thrilled with Cobb and Settlemyer - they won by enormous margins. We are most pleased to have them on our team. It's difficult here in our little hamlet sometimes, we're kind of the stepchild, but our own e-mail database is 3,700 - I think we can get our needs heard."

The league pundits also wait with baited breath to see the results of their state supreme court hearing in June. Carson City District Court Judge William Maddox ordered property tax refunds for 17 Incline Village property owners in early February, the county district attorney's office filed an emergency stay with the supreme court.

The stay was denied and the court said a decision on the matter would come down in 90 days.

On both sides of the decision, speculation was rampant that word would not come down from the supreme court until after the election.

Now, revolters are eager to hear something.

"We have been patient," Ingemanson said. "Now's the time for a decision."

Not only could the decision have ramifications for refund and tax rollbacks for property owners in the Incline Village/Crystal Bay area, but could set up some of the aforementioned lawmakers with ammunition for policy change in '07, tax revolters said.

While long-time county appraiser Josh Wilson will take over for Bob McGowan as the head of the assessors' office, revolters said they were "ready to work with him."

He returned the sentiment during his campaign.

"One of the first things I will try to do after elected is sit down with the (revolters) and discuss the process and how they feel they can be best served," Wilson said. "We have rules, they know these rules better than anyone else. I look forward to our partnership."

For now, the revolters are returning the compliment.

"The assessor's office said they're waiting for supreme court decision," Ingemanson said. "That is the final capstone over what was done correctly and what was done not. If it is determined that (property valuations) were not done correctly, Josh has to accept that and then we can work together to go forward."

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