

## **Assessor ouster move stays alive with court ruling**

**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

The state Supreme Court issued a ruling Friday that keeps alive an effort by a group of Incline Village residents to remove longtime Washoe County Assessor Robert McGowan from office.

McGowan had asked the high court to halt the move by the Village League to Save Incline Assets, headed by Maryanne Ingemanson, but justices returned the case to the Washoe County District Court for further review.

The league has accused McGowan of malfeasance for failure to follow state rules. McGowan denied the charges, saying his office follows the rules, and he had no control over soaring property tax values that have angered the group.

McGowan may have a defense to some of the allegations against him "but such a defense requires factual determinations suitable for the district court," the Supreme Court said in returning the case to the lower court in Reno.

McGowan didn't go away empty-handed. Justices agreed that one of the five claims by the league was irrelevant to the removal proceedings "as it has nothing to do with whether {McGowan} has refused or neglected to perform his official duties."

###