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Tax revolt group plans next steps

While legal teams from both sides plan immediate future, revolvers look to roll-back or refunds

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League to Save Incline Assets, president

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Local property owners can visit www.nevadapropertytaxrevolt.org to download a petition for review form. The forms, to be presented in toto to the county assessor's office, may lead to a wholesale property tax rebate or roll back of rates to the 2002 level, tax revolt officials speculated this week.

Based on last week's decision from the state supreme court to deem property assessment in Incline Village/Crystal Bay "unconstitutional" and "inconsistent" by upholding a district court decision for 17 property tax owners, both sides are figuring out next steps.

Legal counsel for both the county and the tax revolt group are in the process this week of reviewing the supreme court decision.

While county officials this week would not comment on how or what kind of reparations would be made, tax revolvers are continuing the fight with a pending "Petition for Reconsideration" hearing before the Nevada Tax Commission.

"I filed the petition (last) Nov. 16 as soon as I heard about the adoption by the tax commission, of the 15 percent increase in the assessed value of all residential land in Area 1, which includes Incline Village/Crystal Bay," League to Save Incline Assets president Maryanne Ingemanson said. "I will be testifying to get the Incline Village/Crystal Bay land value assessment increase of 15 percent voided, as that portion of the decision was done illegally."

In the interim, at least one state's fight against arbitrary property tax assessment has extended beyond Nevada borders given new life in the wake of a supreme court hearing.

A Bonner County Idaho grassroots organization, Sensible Taxation of Property or STOP, was energized.

"Our ultimate goal is to change the Idaho Constitution and how property tax is determined and collected in this state," Bob Chenault, a STOP organizer who unsuccessfully attempted to place a 1 percent

property tax initiative on the Idaho November ballot last year. "We want the legislature to know we're coming after them."

Local revolters are also looking towards the 2007 state legislature to make more sweeping changes. Changes they feel will benefit the state and it's long-term health

"We would like to see the 2007 legislature start to tackle the problem of the property tax system in the state of Nevada," said Incline

resident and tax revolter Wayne Fischer. "We realize this is a problem that can't be handled in one session. We think (lawmakers) should create a study group that would reconvene in the 2009 session with a recommendation. We need to look long-term over the next 50 years.

"The last thing we need is a Band-Aid over a Band-Aid over a Band Aid."

- The Associated Press contributed to this report