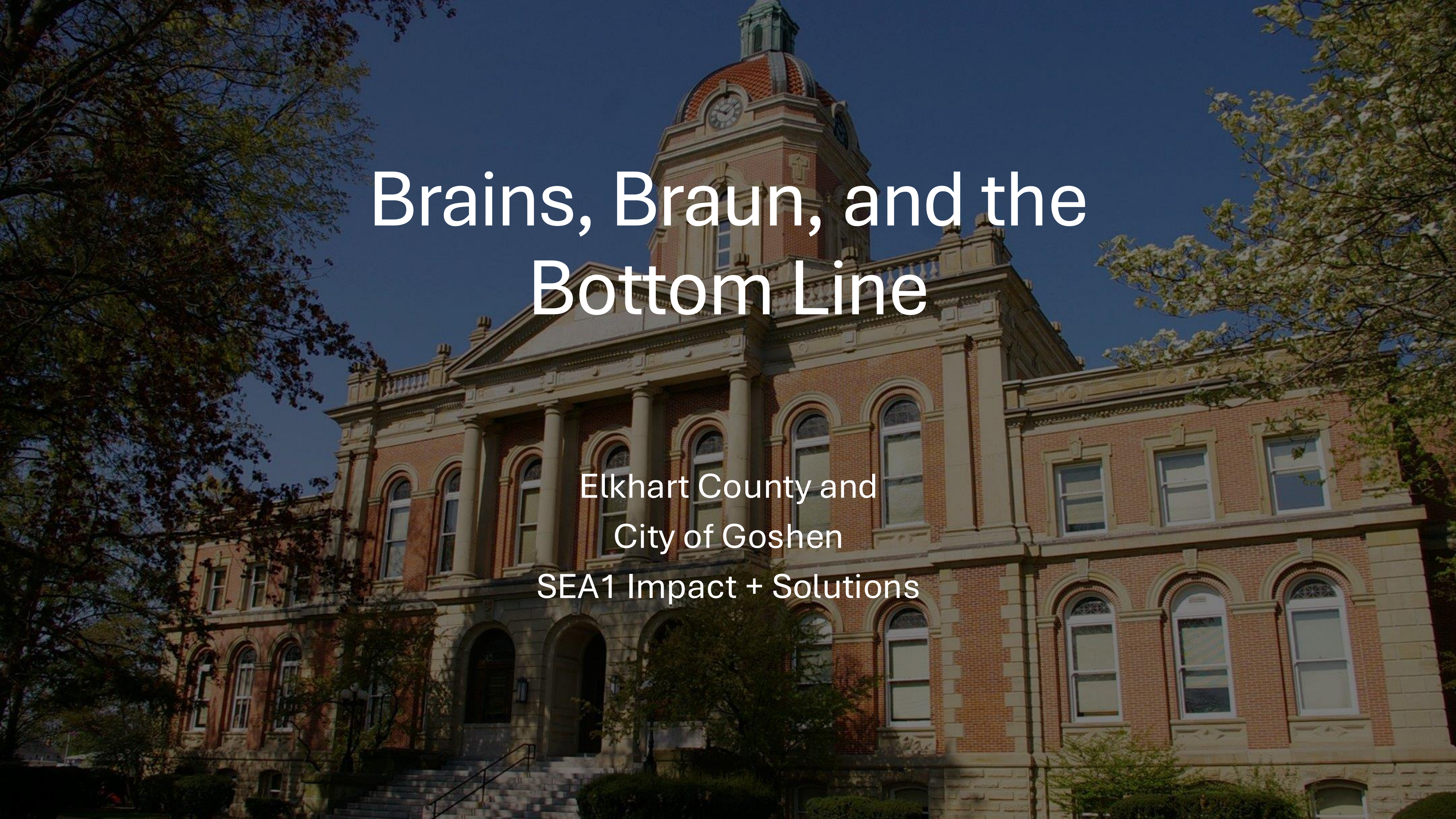


Brains, Braun, and the Bottom Line

Elkhart County and
City of Goshen
SEA1 Impact + Solutions

Presenters

Brett Weddell
Goshen City Council
(At Large)

Linda Gerber
Goshen City Council
(At Large)

Steven Clark
Elkhart County Council

Gina Leichty
Mayor of Goshen

Neighbors in Need – How to Help

The Window
- 223 South Main Street
- Naomi Leary, executive director
- **Needs:** Perishable and nonperishable foods. Monetary donations preferred due to bulk purchasing power

LifePoint Church
- 1006 South 16th Street
- **Needs:** Cereal, canned vegetables and fruit, pasta, sauce, soups, peanut butter, toilet paper, feminine hygiene products, diapers, and soap

Church Community Services
- 907 Oakland Ave., Elkhart
- Supports a network of ministries, pantries and meal sites throughout Elkhart County
- 50% increase in new families

Food Bank of Northern Indiana
- 702 Chapin St., South Bend
- Gathers, purchases and distributes foods to a network of 125 local agencies, including 16 in Elkhart County

First Light Mission
- 801 W Wilkinson St
- **Needs:** Perishable and nonperishable food, hygiene items, and winter coats for children.

ReStor Church
- 406 S. 5th St., Goshen
- Gene Troyer, Pastor
- Preparing up to 300 boxed Thanksgiving meals for pickup Nov. 26. Welcomes help providing food and packing and distributing boxes

Salvation Army Goshen
- 1013 North Main Street
- **Needs:** Nonperishable food items, including, canned vegetables, fruits, soups, grains, peanut butter and water

Gymtown Pantry (Food Bank)
- 30241 C.R. 22, Elkhart
- **Needs:** Jelly, macaroni and cheese, pasta, spaghetti sauce, and hygiene items. Monetary gifts stretch farther as food is purchased for 30 cents on the dollar

East Goshen Mennonite Church
- 2019 East Lincoln Avenue
- Operates the Bread of Life Food Pantry.
- **Needs:** Nonperishable food, baby supplies, cleaning products, hats, gloves and toiletries

Dan & Jill Koop Liechty
- 112 South 6th St.
- Food Library
- **Needs:** Nonperishable food, toiletries and detergents

Brian & Rebekah Whirledge
- 913 S. 7th
- Temporary Food Library (through Christmas)
- **Needs:** Pantry Staples, kpeanut butter, mac and cheese, canned chicken or tuna

Cultivate Food Rescue
- 5220 Middlebury St., Elkhart
- Cultivate Food Rescue's mission is to prevent food waste and end hunger in northern Indiana by rescuing excess food, preparing it for distribution, and delivering it to neighbors in need.

Questions for Presenters?

How did we get here?

1. SEA 1 passed and signed into law in April 2025
2. Biggest tax-system change in state history
3. Major changes to local tax funding (Property tax, Income Tax, TIF, Net Assessed Values, and Borrowing/Bonding)
4. Cuts local revenue flexibility
5. First time in history: No state money to replace losses

Indiana Property Tax History

Until SEA1: Changes Previously Balanced with Other State Relief

1973

Otis Bowen Property Tax Freeze

Sales Tax: 2-4%

1979

MLGQ enacted

2002

St. John: Switch to Market Value Assessments

HEA1001: AVGQ and Inventory AV

Sales Tax 5-6%

2008

Tax Caps % of GAV

1,2,3% Tax Brackets

Sales Tax 6-7%

2010

Tax Caps added to Indiana Constitution

2015

Local Income Taxes reworked

Merged to one LIT

2023

HEA1499&SEA324

Deduction in increases for 2025 & 2025

2025

SEA1 Overhaul Property, LIT, NAV, TIF, MLGQ

No relief from state

"Indy, We've Got a Problem"

1. The new law was developed quickly and is ***extremely*** complex.
2. Many unintended consequences impacting communities across Indiana.
3. For residents, it could mean higher costs, fewer city services, and slower response times for things like police, fire, and road repair.
4. Without a fix in 2026, residents will pay more but get less in return.

Indiana's Complex Tax System

Buckle Up

How your property taxes are calculated

Step 1 — The Levy System

1. Each city can collect only a fixed total amount in property taxes each year.
2. This total is called the Levy — it's the city's budget "pie."

Step 2 — The Growth Limit (MLGQ)

1. The Maximum Levy Growth Quotient (MLGQ) controls how much the total can grow each year (regardless of inflation or growth.)
2. Before SEA1: Data-driven: Tied to Hoosier's 5-year average income growth.
3. After SEA1: The Legislature sets it.
4. For 2025, capped at 4%

Step 3 — Setting the Max Levy

1. Last year's levy × MLGQ = Maximum Levy
2. City budgets must fit within that total limit.
3. Once set, the levy is divided by total property value to find the tax rate.

Step 4 — Why the Rate Matters Less than the Levy

1. The rate just divides the pie — it doesn't change its size.
2. What really matters is how much total money the city is allowed to collect.

Levy vs. Rate

The amount a city or county can collect is called the **levy**.

How that total is divided among property owners is the **rate**.

Levy = The Total Pie

- The levy is the total dollars a city/county can collect.
- Set each year by state rules.
- Used to fund essential services.
- The levy grows only a small amount each year, even if costs rise. (Maximum Levy Growth Quotient - determined by the state)

Rate = Your Slice of the Pie

- The rate is your share of the levy.
- Based on your property's value.
- If property values go up, the rate usually goes down.
- If property values go down, the rate usually goes up.

State Determines Size of the Pizza (the MLGQ)

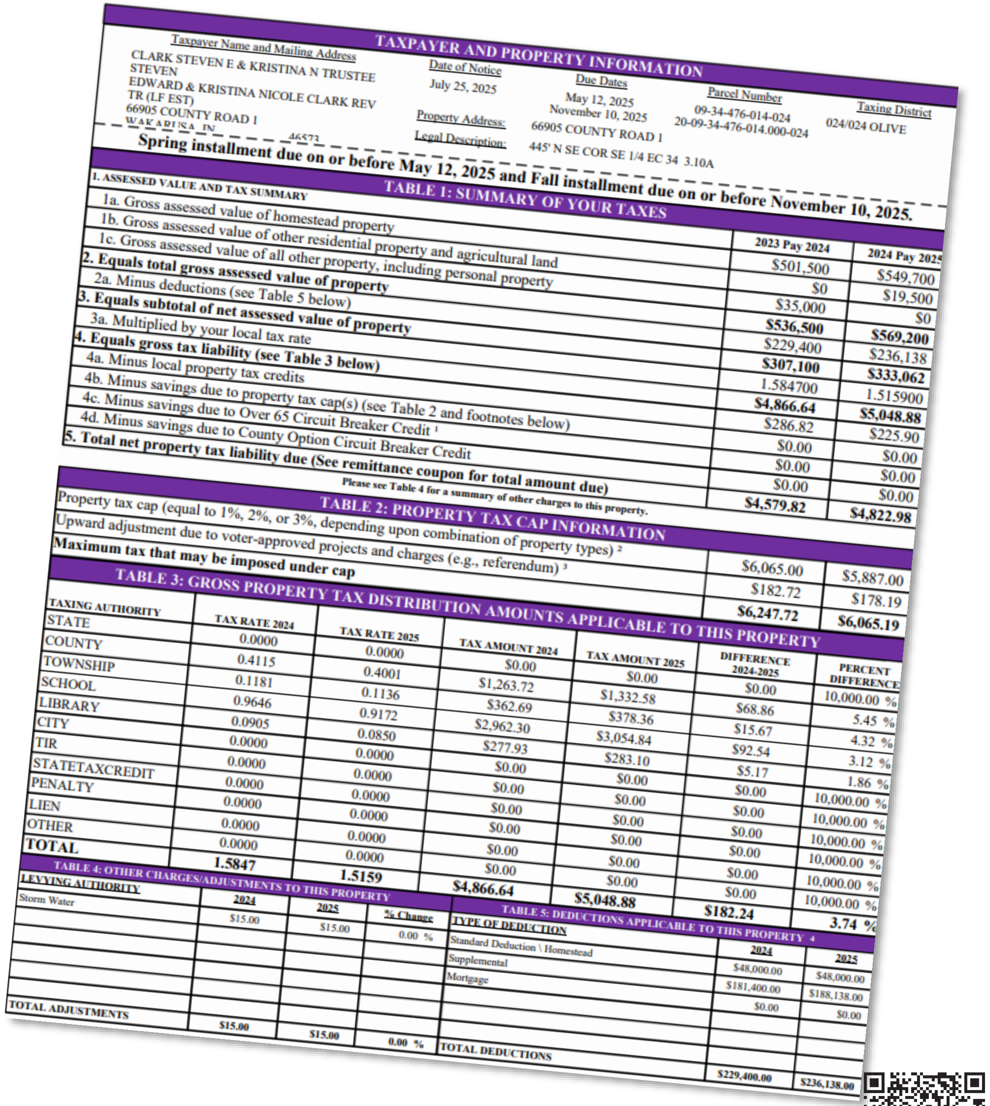
- Post SEA1: The state caps the growth of the Levy each year.
- SEA1 imposed new – more severe **levy** caps
- Costs, wages, and inflation go up
- Less revenue to maintain the same services
- The pie can't get bigger — only sliced thinner
- Is 4% enough? Hypothetically, if the population doubled, we would still only get a 4% bump though costs increase

Why do Property Tax Rates Fluctuate?

Example

- 6.1% change in Assessed Value
- 5.3% change in tax bill
- -.0688% change in tax rate

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
AV	$ 536,500.00	$ 569,200.00	$ 603,921.20
% Increase AV		6.1%	6.1%
MLGQ		4.0%	4.0%
Rate	1.52%	1.49%	1.46%
Max Levy	$ 8,132.80	$ 8,458.12	$ 8,796.44



TAXPAYER AND PROPERTY INFORMATION

Taxpayer Name and Mailing Address: CLARK STEVEN E & KRISTINA N TRUSTEE STEVEN EDWARD & KRISTINA NICOLE CLARK REV TR (LF EST) 66905 COUNTY ROAD 1 WAKARUSA IN 46573

Date of Notice: July 25, 2025

Due Dates: May 12, 2025 November 10, 2025

Parcel Number: 09-34-476-014-024 20-09-34-476-014.000-024

Taxing District: 024/024 OLIVE

Property Address: 66905 COUNTY ROAD 1

Legal Description: 445' N SE COR SE 1/4 EC 34 3.10A

Spring installment due on or before May 12, 2025 and Fall installment due on or before November 10, 2025.

TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF YOUR TAXES

1. ASSESSED VALUE AND TAX SUMMARY	2023 Pay 2024	2024 Pay 2025
1a. Gross assessed value of homestead property	$501,500	$549,700
1b. Gross assessed value of other residential property and agricultural land	$0	$19,500
1c. Gross assessed value of all other property, including personal property	$35,000	$0
2. Equals total gross assessed value of property	**$536,500**	**$569,200**
2a. Minus deductions (see Table 5 below)	$229,400	$236,138
3. Equals subtotal of net assessed value of property	**$307,100**	**$333,062**
3a. Multiplied by your local tax rate	1.584700	1.515900
4. Equals gross tax liability (see Table 3 below)	**$4,866.64**	**$5,048.88**
4a. Minus local property tax credits	$286.82	$225.90
4b. Minus savings due to property tax cap(s) (see Table 2 and footnotes below)	$0.00	$0.00
4c. Minus savings due to Over 65 Circuit Breaker Credit [1]	$0.00	$0.00
4d. Minus savings due to County Option Circuit Breaker Credit	$0.00	$0.00
5. Total net property tax liability due (See remittance coupon for total amount due)	**$4,579.82**	**$4,822.98**

Please see Table 4 for a summary of other charges to this property.

TABLE 2: PROPERTY TAX CAP INFORMATION

Property tax cap (equal to 1%, 2%, or 3%, depending upon combination of property types) [2]	$6,065.00	$5,887.00
Upward adjustment due to voter-approved projects and charges (e.g., referendum) [3]	$182.72	$178.19
Maximum tax that may be imposed under cap	**$6,247.72**	**$6,065.19**

TABLE 3: GROSS PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUTION AMOUNTS APPLICABLE TO THIS PROPERTY

TAXING AUTHORITY	TAX RATE 2024	TAX RATE 2025	TAX AMOUNT 2024	TAX AMOUNT 2025	DIFFERENCE 2024-2025	PERCENT DIFFERENCE
STATE	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
COUNTY	0.4115	0.4001	$1,263.72	$1,332.58	$68.86	5.45 %
TOWNSHIP	0.1181	0.1136	$362.69	$378.36	$15.67	4.32 %
SCHOOL	0.9646	0.9172	$2,962.30	$3,054.84	$92.54	3.12 %
LIBRARY	0.0905	0.0850	$277.93	$283.10	$5.17	1.86 %
CITY	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
TIR	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
STATETAXCREDIT	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
PENALTY	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
LIEN	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
OTHER	0.0000	0.0000	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	10,000.00 %
TOTAL	**1.5847**	**1.5159**	**$4,866.64**	**$5,048.88**	**$182.24**	**3.74 %**

TABLE 4: OTHER CHARGES/ADJUSTMENTS TO THIS PROPERTY

LEVYING AUTHORITY	2024	2025	% Change
Storm Water	$15.00	$15.00	0.00 %
TOTAL ADJUSTMENTS	$15.00	$15.00	0.00 %

TABLE 5: DEDUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO THIS PROPERTY [4]

TYPE OF DEDUCTION	2024	2025
Standard Deduction \ Homestead	$48,000.00	$48,000.00
Supplemental	$181,400.00	$188,138.00
Mortgage	$0.00	$0.00
TOTAL DEDUCTIONS	$229,400.00	$236,138.00

Indiana's Property Taxes are Highly Competitive!

Here's Why:

Ranked 5th Best in the Nation for Property Taxes[1]

The state limits how much cities can collect and how fast that total can grow ***even*** when costs rise ***or*** when the population increases.

Property tax caps

- 1% – Owner-occupied homes
- 2% – Other residential & agricultural property
- 3% – Commercial property

Homestead deductions

- Reduce taxable value for homeowners

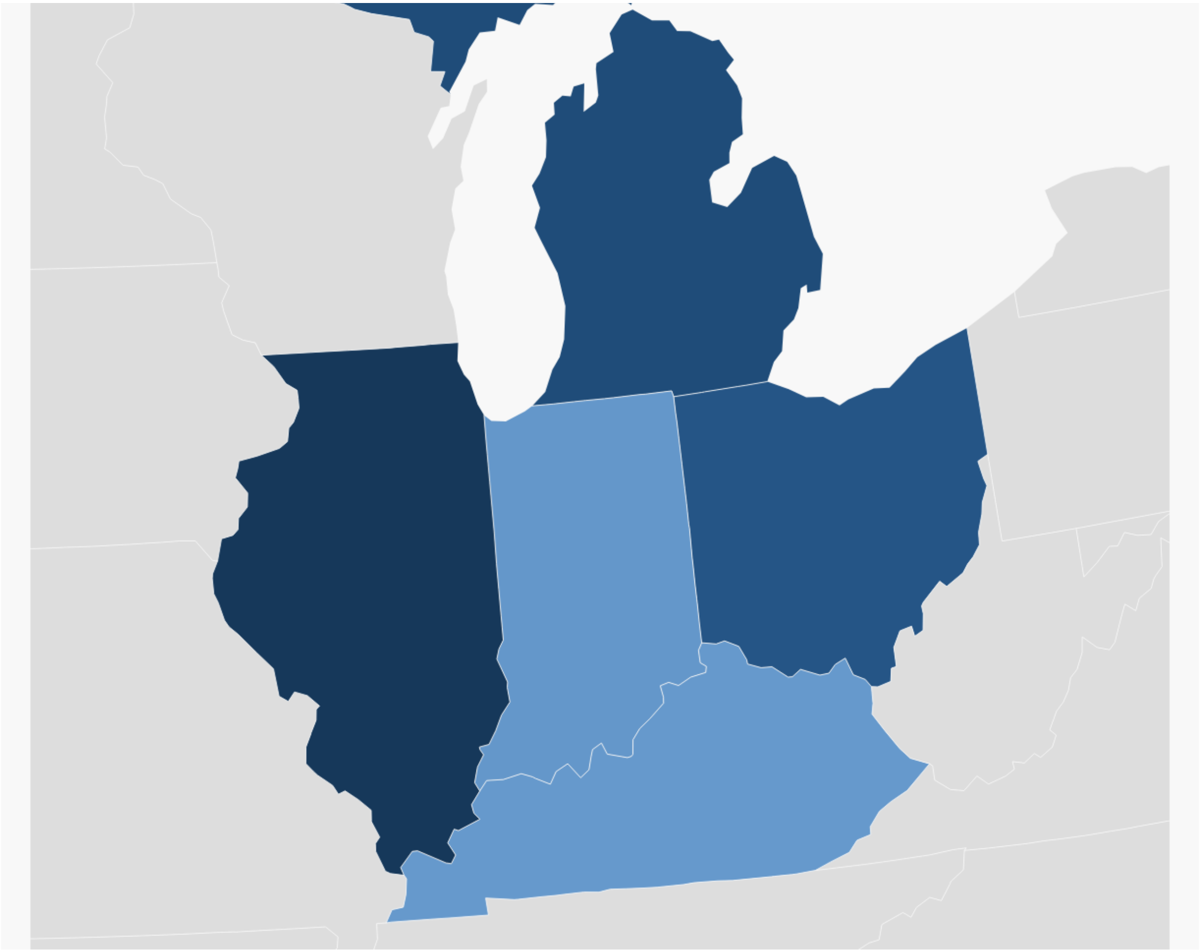
Levy limit (MLGQ):

- Sets how much total revenue local governments can collect each year
- Pre SEA1: Tied to statewide personal income growth
- For 2025, SEA1 growth capped at 4%

1. State Tax Competitiveness Index – Tax Foundation, 2024

Lowest Among our Neighbors (Our Direct Competitors)

Take that, **Wolverines and Buckeyes!**



So, What Inspired the SEA1 Change?

Short Answer: Housing Shortage, Global Pandemic, Inflation

Inflation Increased Some Individuals' Property Taxes

Here's Why:

The housing shortage increased the **Assessed Value** of homes.

Assessment growth shifts who pays what even if total local revenue stays nearly the same.

- Home values in many Indiana counties **rose 15–30%** after 2020.
- The **levy cap** keeps citywide collections from jumping the same amount.
- But **individual bills depend on** how your home's value changed compared to others ❗
- If your assessment grew **faster than average**, your share of the total levy — and your tax bill — went up.
- Property tax caps (1%/2%/3%) limit *how high*, but don't prevent increases below the cap.

Hoosiers expressed frustration about inflation and rising costs.

In response, as a campaign promise, Braun promised a **20% Reduction** for individual homeowners on their property taxes.

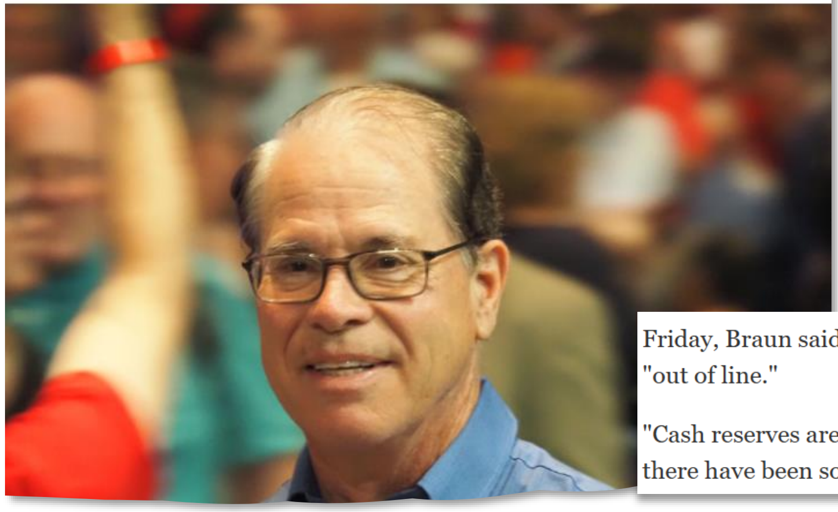
"Shiny objects..."

"Prove you didn't salt away a lot"

ELECTION 2024 GOVERNMENT & POLITICS

Republican gubernatorial nominee Braun releases property tax proposal

BY: **WHITNEY DOWNARD** - JULY 26, 2024 2:52 PM



18 March

RALLYING FOR RELIEF: Statehouse Fills With Hoosiers Calling On State Legislators To Cut Property Taxes

Hundreds of disgruntled Hoosiers gathered at the Statehouse on Monday, demanding lawmakers cut property taxes. (Photo/Juliann Ventura)

By Juliann Ventura
The Indiana Citizen
March 18, 2025

Roughly 250 rallygoers sporting green gathered at the Statehouse on Monday, urging Indiana's lawmakers to cut property taxes.

Attendees chanted, "Where's my money?" as nearly all of them wore green shirts and held signs emblazoned with the demands "Eliminate property taxes NOW!" or "Stop stealing our money." Prior to the

Friday, Braun said he's trying to make the case that some jurisdictions got "out of line."

"Cash reserves are at fairly record levels across the board," he said. "Then there have been some shiny objects purchased."

"Almost all of them are saying that they can't do without what they're having now, I would say, prove it," Braun said. "Prove it that you didn't salt away a lot, that you didn't overburden the taxpayer by maybe making investments in buildings that weren't needed or other things that weren't essential."

What Else Was Going On?

A Closer Look at the Data

Why Did Local Expenditures Increase?

01

Public Safety Spurred by Economics and the State

02

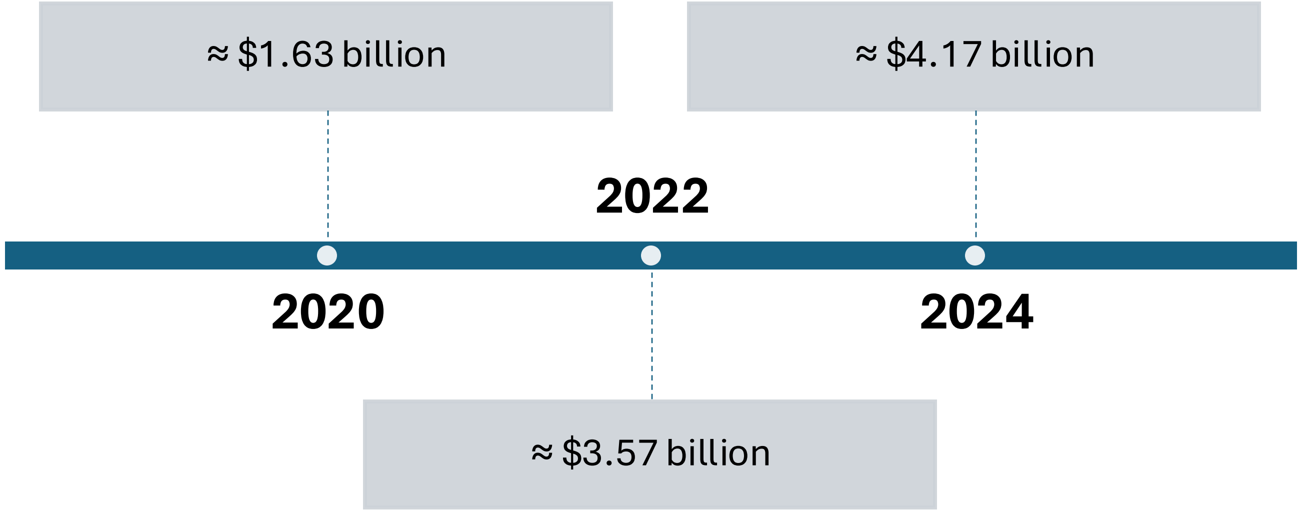
COVID Grant Funds (2020-2026)

03

Infrastructure Costs

1. Public Safety Competition

- State public safety spending has more than doubled since 2019.
- Major driver: wage increases for state police, excise, and conservation officers (+ $95 M in 2024–25).
- Local municipalities now face pressure to match pay increases to remain competitive.
- Meanwhile, levy growth limits cap how fast local budgets can rise




LOCAL NEWS

New state budget means pay raises for ISP

by: Ethan Dahlen
Posted: May 12, 2023 / 06:55 PM EDT
Updated: May 16, 2023 / 11:37 AM EDT


News Releases

Garten: Senate Republicans' 2023 budget priority to increase pay for Indiana State Police troopers now in effect

The new budget has a proposed pay matrix in it that would bump trooper trainee pay by 40%

2. COVID Recovery Act Fund Grants

Funds awarded / received 2020–2023; spending authorized through 2026.

State of Indiana ≈ **$5.7B**

- $2.4 B CARES Act
- $3.07 B ARPA SLFRF
- ~$0.2 B Capital Projects Fund

Elkhart County ≈ **$46.7M**

- $40.1 M ARPA
- $6.7 M CARES Act

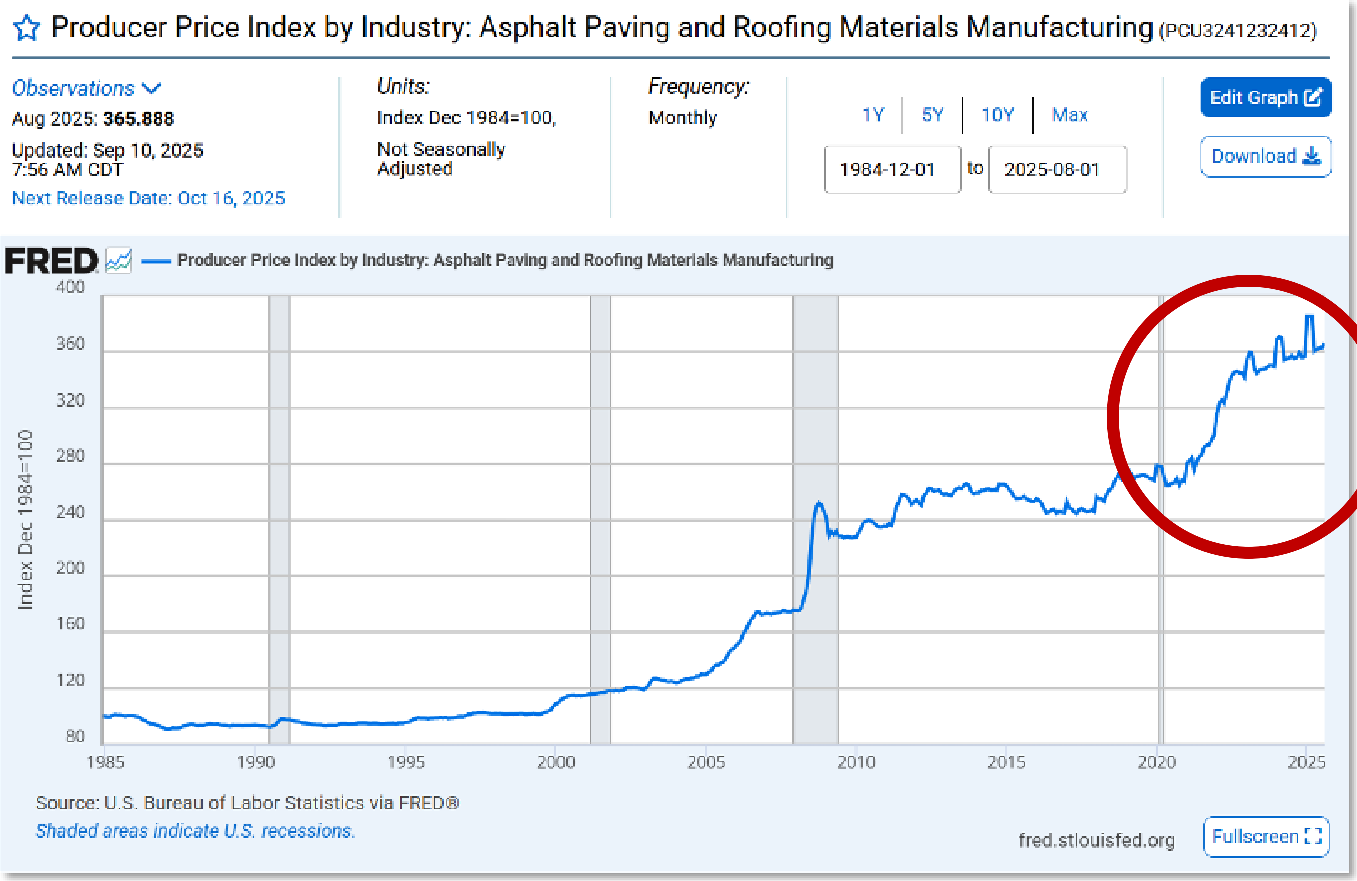
City of Goshen≈ **$7.7M**

- $6.6 M ARPA
- $1.1 M CARES Act

3. Infrastructure and Construction Inflation

Government service costs are growing faster than the general inflation rate.

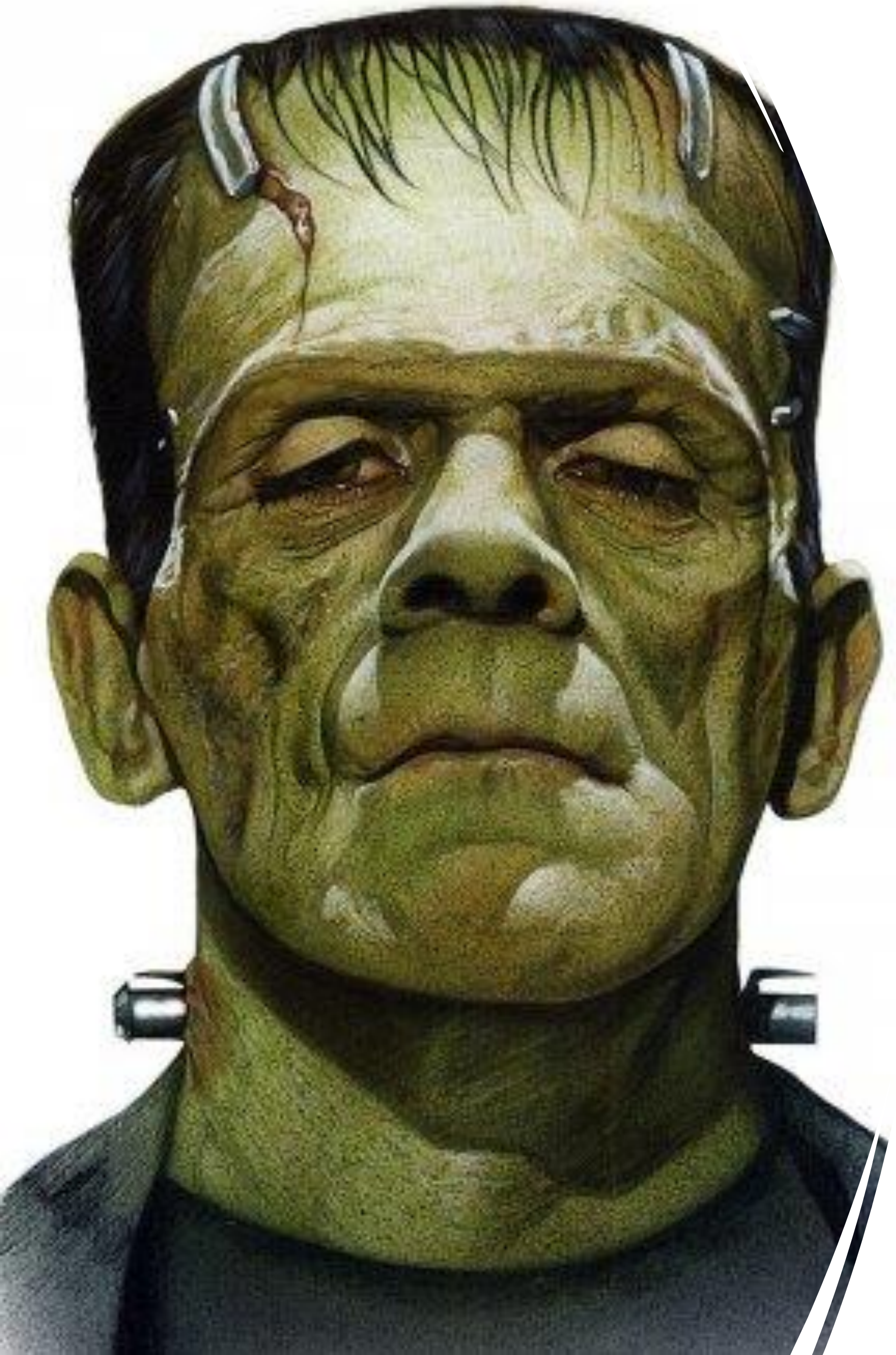
Up	1986-2005: Up 30% or 1.57% per year
Up	2005-2024: Up 183.6% or 9.63% per year
Up	Jan 2020-Jan 2025: Up 38%



Interestingly, the State Increases match Local Government Increases over the same period of time.

Indiana State Expenditure Increases 2020-2024

State	Year	Expend	% Change	5-yr % Change
Indiana	2024	$50,721.00	-5.3%	
Indiana	2023	$53,568.00	11.2%	
Indiana	2022	$48,189.00	7.8%	
Indiana	2021	$44,682.40	18.7%	
Indiana	2020	$37,656.00	10.6%	34.7%
Indiana	2019	$34,049.00	1.3%	
Indiana	2018	$33,621.00	5.3%	
Indiana	2017	$31,928.00	2.3%	
Indiana	2016	$31,209.00	6.4%	
Indiana	2015	$29,342.00	7.6%	16.0%
Indiana	2014	$27,260.00	-3.2%	
Indiana	2013	$28,171.00	7.5%	
Indiana	2012	$26,195.00	-0.9%	
Indiana	2011	$26,437.00	-0.8%	
Indiana	2010	$26,656.00		2.3%



SEA 1 is Born

- **Born Early Morning** April 15, 2025
- **Parents:** House Bill 1402 (Income Tax) and Senate Bill 1 (Property Tax)
- Changes school referendums
- Removes excess levy appeals (e.g., 3-year growth)
- Caps the MLGQ to 4%
- Increases the de minimis BPPT from $80K to $2M
- Eliminates the 30% BPPT floor
- Changes Homestead and Supplemental deductions to new deductions and adds property tax credits
- Changes LIT structure and distribution of LIT (cap 3.75% to 2.9%)
- Distribution of LIT changes drastically

Property Taxes - What's Changed?

Bottom Line

Homeowners may see small savings now, but local services could face budget pressure as revenues shrink.

- **Bigger deductions** for homeowners and other property types phase in through 2031.
- **Higher credits** for primary homes (homesteads) offer short-term relief.
- **Business equipment taxes cut:** higher exemptions and higher depreciation floor.
- **Farm values recalculated:** changes in how farmland is assessed could shift tax bills.
- **Property Tax Relief LIT ends in 2027**, removing a key local revenue source.
- **Budget growth cap (MLGQ):** limits how much local governments can raise through property taxes in 2026 (4%).

Income Taxes - What's Changed?

Bottom Line

The new structure may make it harder for local governments to keep up with wage and service costs.

- Local income tax structure will be reorganized starting in 2028.
- LIT Funds Public Safety, Economic Development, and Infrastructure
- Cities and Counties could adopt different Income Tax Rates
- This will change how money is shared between cities and counties.

1% Homestead Property Deductions and Credits Changes

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Standard Deduction	$48,000	$48,000	$40,000	$30,000	$20,000	$10,000	$0
Supplemental Homestead Deduction	37.5%	40%	46.0%	52.0%	57.0%	62.0%	66.7%
Supplemental Homestead Credit		Lesser of $300 or 10.0% of net property tax bill	Lesser of $300 or 10.0% of net property tax bill	Lesser of $300 or 10.0% of net property tax bill	Lesser of $300 or 10.0% of net property tax bill	Lesser of $300 or 10.0% of net property tax bill	Lesser of $300 or 10.0% of net property tax bill
65 & over (Credit)	**MODIFIED**	$150	$150	$150	$150	$150	$150
Disabled homeowner (Credit)	**MODIFIED**	$125	$125	$125	$125	$125	$125

"65 and Over" Credit Qualification Threshold:
•For a **single filer**, the adjusted gross income must not exceed **$60,000**.
•For a **joint filer**, the adjusted gross income must not exceed **$70,000**.
Income eligibility is based on the calendar year **two years prior** to the year in which the property taxes are due.

2% Agricultural, rental, and long-term care Property assessment deduction changes

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Standard Deduction	0%	6%	12%	19%	25%	30%	33.4%

2% properties include agricultural, non-homestead residential, and long-term care facilities.

Note: The agricultural land base rate changed and is anticipated to decrease land assessed value.

Business Personal Property Tax – What's changed?

Starting in **2027**, Indiana is dramatically raising the **"de minimis" exemption** — the threshold under which businesses don't pay personal property tax on their equipment.

At the same time, the state is **eliminating the "30 percent floor"** that set a minimum taxable value for business equipment purchased after January 1, 2025.
(The floor will stay in place only for properties located in older TIF districts created before that date.)

1. **Big savings for corporations**, especially manufacturers with expensive equipment.
2. **Less revenue for local communities** to fund fire, police, roads, and schools.
3. **Small businesses see little new benefit**, most already under $80,000.

	2025	2026	2027
De minimis exemption	$80,000	$80,000	$2,000,000

SEA 1 Reduces Local TIF Revenue

SEA 1 changes the math behind property taxes.

It lowers the amount of revenue cities and towns can collect overall, which also means less growth to capture inside TIF districts.

When the total levy is capped, TIF revenue shrinks.

Because TIF districts draw their funding from increases in property value (the "increment"), anything that limits property-tax growth limits TIF growth too.

The state can now "neutralize" TIF revenue.

SEA 1 gives the state's Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) new authority to adjust TIF values up or down:

Downward adjustments reduce "windfall" revenue if tax rates rise.

Upward adjustments are allowed only to cover bond payments — not to restore lost development funding.

The result:

Less predictable, more volatile TIF income.

Fewer local dollars for downtown and infrastructure reinvestment.

Greater state control over what was once a local redevelopment tool.

Community Impact

County and City

This Isn’t the Road to Success

Basic Services

Elkhart County 2026 Budget

OH	$22,113,981.00	11.6%
Insurance/Benefits/Retirement from Commissioner	$ 24,027,685.00	12.6%
Required	$46,760,831.00	24.6%
Rule of Law	$74,937,399.00	39.4%
Other	$4,405,113.00	2.3%
TIF	$3,774,000.00	2.0%
Landfill	$14,062,872.00	7.4%
Total	**$190,081,881.00**	100.0%

Loc Description	2026 Pub Budget	Percentage
HUMAN RESOURCES	$607,695.00	0.32%
PURDUE EXTENSION	$690,215.00	0.36%
WEIGHTS & MEASURES	$92,881.00	0.05%
VETERANS	$224,309.00	0.12%
CORONER	$486,985.00	0.26%
SHERIFF	$34,211,040.00	18.0%
JUDICIARY	$14,862,724.00	7.82%
ECCC	$4,932,581.00	2.59%
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY	$9,274,988.00	4.88%
PUBLIC DEFENDER	$3,710,322.00	1.95%
JAIL (1114-140)	$2,895,487.00	1.52%
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	$624,364.00	0.33%
E-911	$4,425,893.00	2.33%
CLERK	$3,737,691.00	2.00%
HIGHWAY	$17,956,425.00	9.45%
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT	$2,289,903.00	1.20%
TIFS	$3,774,000.00	2.00%
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS	$6,567,066.00	3.45%
PARKS & RECREATION	$3,397,708.00	1.79%
SOIL & WATER	$505,327.00	0.27%
COMMISSIONERS	$33,129,920.00	17.43%
COUNTY COUNCIL	$186,827.00	0.10%
I.T.	$5,836,985.00	3.07%
SURVEYOR	$1,771,250.00	0.93%
HEALTH	$7,568,512.00	3.98%
AUDITOR	$8,520,703.00	4.48%
RECORDER	$657,511.00	0.35%
TREASURER	$500,662.00	0.26%
CONCORD ASSESSOR	$447,280.00	0.24%
COUNTY ASSESSOR	$2,131,755.00	1.12%
LANDFILL	$14,062,872.00	7.40%
TOTAL OF ALL TABS LISTED (WITH TIFS)	**$190,081,881.00**	**99.99%**

Basic Services

City of Goshen 2026 Budget

Category	Sum of 2026	Percentage
Community Development	$12,477,411.87	15.90%
General	$6,944,525.00	8.85%
Public Health and Safety	$24,548,518.50	31.28%
Public Works	$25,488,816.60	32.48%
Required by Law	$2,301,198.00	2.93%
Parks, Buildings, Grounds	$6,721,009.19	8.56%
Grand Total	**$78,481,479.16**	**100.00%**

Department	2026	Percentage
Aviation	$ 4,614,500.00	5.88%
Board of Works	$ 8,596,657.60	11.64%
Building	$ 780,287.87	1.20%
Building & Grounds	$ 1,994,768.00	2.59%
Cemetery	$ 443,008.86	0.54%
Central Garage	$ 1,780,938.00	1.68%
City Council	$ 153,723.00	0.12%
Clerk	$ 793,700.00	0.60%
Community Engagement	$ 30,000.00	0.02%
Court	$ 712,330.00	0.33%
Debt	$ 371,350.00	0.17%
EID	$ 89,350.00	0.04%
Engineering	$ 5,455,213.00	2.54%
Environment/Forestry	$ 1,311,244.00	0.63%
Fire	$ 11,345,616.00	5.45%
Legal	$ 948,575.00	0.48%
Mayor	$ 1,353,775.00	0.69%
General	$ 2,750,648.00	1.41%
Park	$ 2,971,988.33	1.55%
Planning	$ 448,054.00	0.24%
Police	$ 12,490,572.50	6.63%
Redevelopment	$ 11,219,070.00	6.37%
Stormwater	$ 2,753,176.00	1.67%
Streets	$ 3,979,920.00	2.46%
Technology	$ 1,093,014.00	0.69%

Important Considerations

The State controls most of how local dollars are spent

Cities and counties have limited flexibility.

Local governments are using money carefully

Every dollar supports essential services: police, fire, roads, parks, and infrastructure.

Budgets and expenditures are not the same

Budgets plan spending; expenditures reflect real costs — many of which have risen faster than revenue.

As our community grows and inflation continues, we must make hard choices about what services can be sustained with limited funds.

Your voice matters.

Engage your state legislators and urge them to keep local issues local — so the decisions about Goshen are made here, not Indianapolis.

Where do We Go From Here? Proposed Legislative Changes

2026 Legislative Session

Legislative Partnership 2026 Is the Fix

Urge consideration of fixes to the legislation in 2026, do not wait until 2027.

Local Income Tax (LIT) – Restore Flexibility

Let’s go Back to the Future. The system we had (before SEA1) Works for Elkhart County. Returning to that structure would solve the majority of issues for municipalities in Elkhart County.

Ask for a system that keeps your community safe and thriving.

Give local leaders the flexibility to keep up with rising costs — so your police, firefighters, and streets don’t fall behind.

LIT Annual Adoption – End the Annual Vote

You deserve stability in your services.

Ask lawmakers to stop the yearly re-vote on local income taxes so essential services aren’t left hanging every budget season.

Local income tax and state income tax adoptions should match in frequency.

Property Tax Growth Cap (MLGQ) – Reform or Raise It

Keep pace with growth where you live.

A one-size-fits-all 4% cap doesn’t work. Our community should be able to grow with its needs.

Property Tax Hearings – Cut the Red Tape

Remove the new additional budget hearing requirement. Your tax dollars should go to services, not paperwork.

Ask the State to remove redundant budget hearings that waste time and money better spent fixing roads and supporting families.

Business Personal Property Tax – Restore Balance

Adjust the $2 million BPPT exemption so big corporations still pay their fair share.

Ask for fairness in business taxes. Protecting homeowners from carrying more of the burden.

Township Modernization – Simplify and Strengthen

Encourage a clear, streamlined process for township consolidation to reduce duplication and strengthen local service delivery. Make government easier for you to navigate.

Support streamlining local structures so your tax dollars go further and you get faster, more efficient service.

If Indiana changes how property taxes are structured, let’s be smart and fair.

If the state moves to a rate-based system, it should be smart reform —

1. Fair to taxpayers
2. Sustainable for communities
3. Grounded in real data.

Questions?