

## **WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Wabash County Council met in session on Monday, June 23, 2025, in the Commissioner's Meeting Room of the Wabash County Courthouse. Chairman Kyle Bowman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Council members present: Bowman, Matthew Mize, Sam Hann, Nick Kopkey and Gary Ridenhour. Matt Dillon was Absent. Dave Terflinger Via Zoom.

Darren Bates of Data Pit Stop Inc., focused on reviewing recent changes in state legislation and tax policies, particularly regarding property tax caps, deductions, and the transition from property to income tax funding. Bates explained various implications of these changes, including the impact on different property types, assessment calculations, and revenue allocation for public services.

The meeting focused on understanding recent changes in state legislation and tax policies, particularly regarding property tax caps (Cap 1, 2, and 3) and property tax replacement through income tax. Bates explained that the DLGF, while not a constitutional office, has historically interpreted legislation in ways that benefit the governor, sometimes leading to legal challenges and subsequent amendments. He raised concerns about the treatment of mobile homes under the new legislation, noting that while regular homes can receive 60% homestead deduction plus supplements and veteran benefits, mobile homes are limited to 50% homestead deduction and no veteran benefits, creating an unfair disparity for veterans living in mobile homes.

Bates explained the complexities of the homestead deduction and supplemental deduction changes, noting that while the homestead deduction is being phased out, the supplemental deduction is scheduled to increase to 66.7% over five years. He highlighted that property tax relief has been gradually reduced from 1% to 0.4% over the years, and advised considering a further reduction to 0% in the near future. He also mentioned ongoing efforts to eliminate property tax credits at the State level, warning that such a move could lead to significant public backlash, particularly in high-population areas like Indianapolis.

Bates explained how property tax caps and state revenue changes will affect residents and businesses over the next few years. He noted that tax rates will likely increase due to declining net entities, and seniors will eventually have \$0 bills under the new law. He also discussed how the phase-out of homestead credits and changes to business personal property taxes will impact different areas of the county, predicting that many properties and businesses will hit tax caps within 3-5 years.

Bates explained that property assessments are likely to remain flat for the next two years, which will affect growth calculations and tax bills. He plans to recalculate bills based on new exemptions and deductions once he receives answers from the state.

Bates explained the changes to the local income tax (LIT) system, noting that the current 2.9% rate will be reduced to a maximum of 1.2% in two years for the county share, with the remaining revenue distributed based on up to a 1.2% city government rate and 0.4% for public safety. He clarified that the county will no longer receive PTRC (Property Tax Relief Credit) funds, and emphasized the need to plan for these changes. He also discussed the new system's impact on EMS and fire services funding, explaining that while these services can receive up to 0.4% of the LIT revenue, the county must first maximize its own rate before allocating funds to other entities. Bates discussed the implementation of a 1.2 tax rate for the cities while ensuring the total county rate remains under 2.9. He reviewed how to allocate funds to help smaller towns and libraries that might lose revenue under the new system, and also raised concerns about the Department of Revenue's requirement for residents to specify their place of residence, which could affect the actual revenue generated. He noted that the new system, based strictly on population, might not fully account for the complexities of current revenue sharing formulas.

**Next steps**

- Council: Make decision in July meeting whether to eliminate the entire 0.4% PTRC or reduce it to 0.2% and reallocate to public safety/PSAP
- Council Members: Submit individual ordinance proposals to the auditor for consideration regarding the PTRC rate changes before the July meeting
- Auditor: Prepare and submit newspaper advertisements for multiple ordinance options regarding PTRC changes for the July 21st meeting

The discussion concluded with considerations for future tax rates, budget allocations, while emphasizing the need to act quickly to maintain revenue streams and address community needs.

With no other business to come before the Council, Chairman Bowman adjourned the meeting. The next scheduled meeting of the Wabash County Council is Monday, July 21, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

**The following individuals also attended the County Council meeting:**

*\*If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Shelly Bauccho, Jim Dixon, Tyler Niccum, Cheryl Ross, Jeff Dawes, Cole Wyatt, and Rich Mofield.

The minutes can be found @ <https://www.in.gov/counties/wabash/meeting-minutes/>

**WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL**

  
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Kyle Bowman, Chairman

  
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Matthew Mize, Vice-Chairman

  
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Sam Hann

  
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Matt Dillon

  
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Nick Kopkey

  
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Gary Ridenour

  
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David Terflinger

Attest:   
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Shelly Bauccho, Wabash County Auditor