

Indiana

Department of Local Government Finance



Committed to a fair and equitable property tax system for Hoosier taxpayers.

Developments at the DLGF

Commissioner Timothy J. Rushenberg

March 24, 2009



Commissioner

- Timothy J. Rushenberg
 - Appointed by Governor Mitch Daniels on December 15, 2008
 - Served as General Counsel to the DLGF August 2007-December 2008
 - Served as a Judge Advocate on active duty in the United States Air Force
 - Valparaiso University, J.D.
 - Indiana University-South Bend, B.A. Political Science



DLGF Overview

➤ Duties:

- Ensure property tax assessment and local government budgeting follow Indiana law
- Publish property tax assessment rules
- Annually review and approve tax rates and levies of every political subdivision including all counties, cities, towns, townships, school corporations, libraries and other entities with tax levy authority



DLGF Overview

➤ Structure:

- Commissioner
 - Oversees the operations of the Department and serves as a member of the Distressed Unit Appeals Board
- Assessment Division
 - Promotes consistent assessing procedures across the State by providing guidance and technical instruction and securing compliance with the law to ensure fair and equitable assessment of property for taxpayers
- Budget Division
 - Works closely with local officials in preparing their annual budgets and provides recommendations to the Commissioner on matters related to budgets, rates, levies, exceptions to property tax controls and taxpayer exceptions to tax rate increases

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DLGF Overview

➤ Structure

- Communications Division
 - Supports communications and public relations activities that serve to promote understanding of property tax assessment and local government budgeting by local officials and taxpayers
- Legal Division
 - Drafts and publishes property tax assessment rules and interprets statutory law to ensure property tax assessments and local government budgeting are carried out in accordance with Indiana Law and DLGF rules and regulations
- Operations Division
 - Researches and analyzes all areas of property taxation to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of the property tax burden



Establishing New Standards

➤ Core Values

- Taxpayers First
- Local Control
- Excellence

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Establishing New Standards

➤ Core Competencies

1. Know Your Job
2. Work as a Team
3. Serve the Taxpayers
4. Enforce Assessment Standards
5. Ensure Data Submission Deadlines are Met
6. Ensure Budget Processes are Followed and Levy and Rate Controls Enforced
7. Provide Guidance and Interpret Laws but Respect Local Control



Agency Goals

➤ Restore On-Time Property Tax Billing

- Proactively assist counties in achieving data compliance
 - Department Policy provides for a **2-3 day response and turnaround** for Data compliant counties
- Reduce turnaround time for review and approval of ratio studies (Includes counties w/ data compliance issues)
 - 07pay08 - 61 days
 - **08pay09 - 59 days**
- Reduce turnaround time for budget certification once certified assessed values are received
 - 07pay08 - 45 days
 - **08pay09 - 32 days**



2008 pay 2009 Budget Certification Status Map

2009 Budget Certification status as of March 24, 2009

Indiana Counties

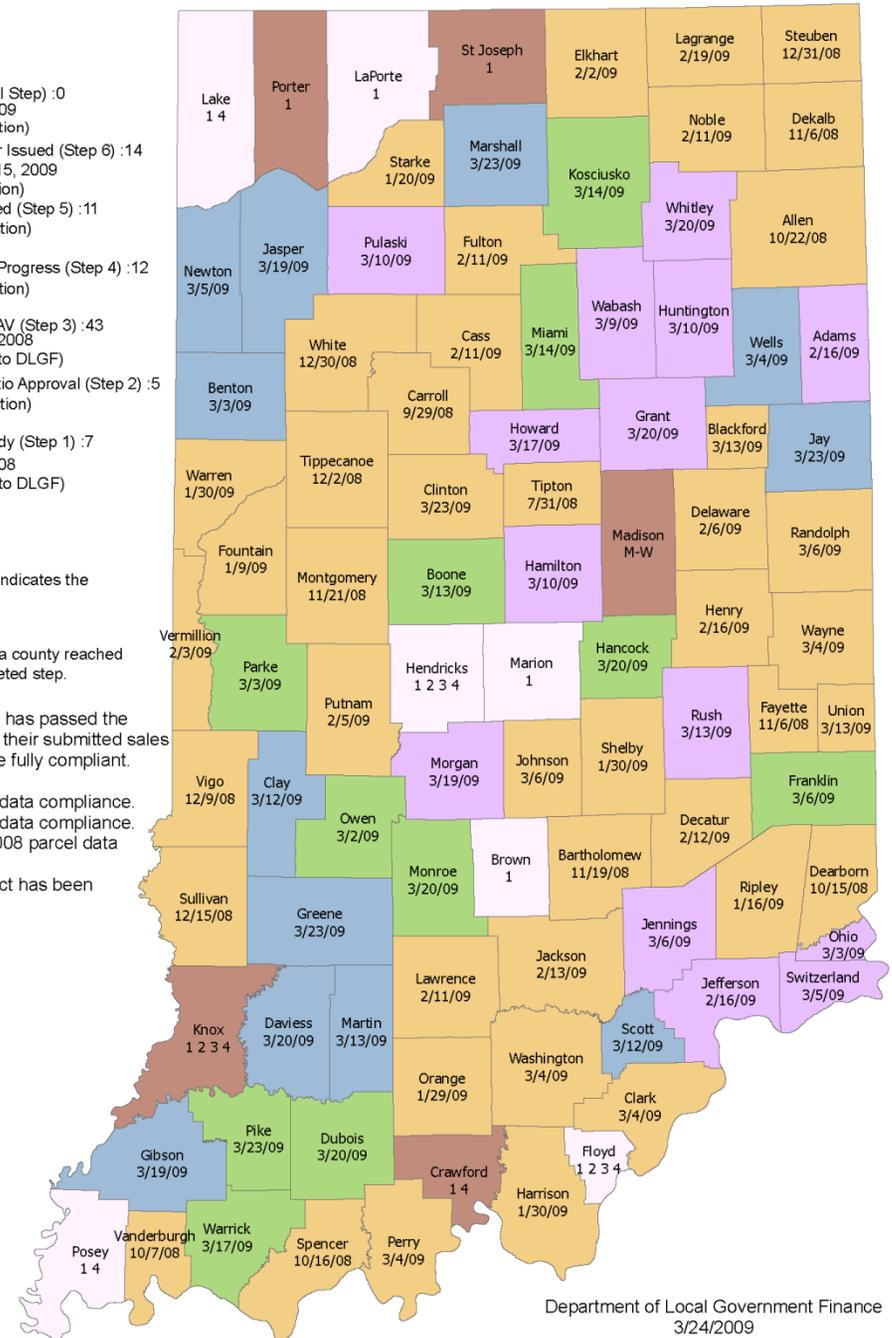
- Tax Bills Due (Final Step) :0
Due May 11, 2009
(Co. Treasurer Action)
- Final Budget Order Issued (Step 6) :14
Due February 15, 2009
(DLGF Action)
- 1782 Notices Issued (Step 5) :11
(DLGF Action)
- Budget Review in Progress (Step 4) :12
(DLGF Action)
- Awaiting Certified AV (Step 3) :43
Due August 1, 2008
(Co. Auditor sends to DLGF)
- Awaiting Sales Ratio Approval (Step 2) :5
(DLGF Action)
- Awaiting Ratio Study (Step 1) :7
Due Spring 2008
(Co. Assessor sends to DLGF)

NOTE: The current color indicates the previous step has been completed or approved.

A date indicates the date a county reached their most recently completed step.

M-W indicates a county has passed the Mann-Whitney test and their submitted sales and parcel data sets are fully compliant.

1 indicates 2006 Sales data compliance.
2 indicates 2007 Sales data compliance.
3 indicates 2007 pay 2008 parcel data compliance.
4 indicates 2008 abstract has been completed.





Agency Goals

- Increase Professional Development of Staff
 - Require all staff to become Level I, Level II, and Level III certified
 - Cross-train field representatives with both budget and assessment knowledge
 - Increase amount and level of data analysis conducted by the Department



2009 General Assembly

➤ DLGF Legislation

- Senate Bill 561 Property Tax Matters (Hershman, Welch).
 - Provides local officials and the DLGF with the tools to return to on-time billing
 - Passed the Senate 48-0
 - 1st Reading in the House assigned to Ways and Means
 - Hearing Date: 3/25/09
- House Bill 1447 Property Taxation (Welch, Hershman).
 - Technical Corrections Bill
 - Passed the House 96-2
 - 1st Reading in the Senate assigned to the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee

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2009 General Assembly

➤ Other Relevant Legislation

- House Bill 1094 Property tax assessments and notices (Grubb, Hershman).
 - Moves valuation date to assessment date
 - Passed the House 97-0
 - 1st Reading assigned to the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee
 - Heard in Committee Today
- House Bill 1670 Plan to restore property tax cycle (Michael, Lawson).
 - Requires DLGF to make recommendations for action necessary to restore timeliness to local budgeting and the imposition of property taxes
 - Passed the House 98-0
 - 1st Reading assigned to the Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee

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Contact The Department

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