



## **Vote YES on HB256 (Hughes) Changes to Truth-in-Taxation Advertisements**

**HB256 cleans up and improves the existing Truth-in-Taxation advertisement with only minor changes to the advertisement's substance.**

If HB256 is approved, the advertisement will be more understandable, and more taxpayers will read the advertisement and become more informed about local government finances because the format and layout of the advertisement have been improved.

**Please resist attempts to delete references to percent tax increases. Maintaining percent tax increase information is crucial.**

The current advertisement notifies taxpayers how much -- in percent terms -- property taxes would increase if the proposed tax increase is implemented, and this information is crucial so taxpayers can adequately evaluate proposed tax increases. HB256 maintains this information.

Policy makers, taxpayers, consumers, businesses, and other organizations routinely express increases and decreases in pay, prices, spending, taxes, etc. in percent terms. Dollar increases in taxes, prices, and spending are useful information, but percent increases are also important information.

Opponents have argued that percent-increase information should be deleted because the advertised percent increase applies only to the specific entity proposing a tax increase instead of the entire property tax bill, which includes levies by several entities including schools, counties, cities, and special service districts. However, the purpose of the Truth-in-Taxation process is to hold local governments accountable, not about how much a taxpayer's total property tax bill is increasing.

Some opponents have also argued that percent increase information should be deleted because a small dollar amount increase may yield a large percent increase. However, percent information is still important information because even so-called small-dollar increases incrementally accumulate into heavy tax burdens.

*The Tax Reform Task Force voted to keep references to percent increases in the revised Truth-in-Taxation advertisement.*

**Please vote YES on HB256**