

Ed Says:

“Since owning a home is a core idea of the American Dream, we must fix the property tax problem to protect it.”

The Problem

Rising property taxes. Property taxes weigh heavily on Idaho. We collectively pay about \$2 billion per year. With home values climbing like a caffeinated kid on a jungle gym, the annual letter from the County Assessor is not a letter many of us look forward to.

Unpredictability of homeownership costs. Would you promise to buy something if you didn't know the price? One of the biggest problems with property taxes in Idaho is that no one knows what they will look like from one year to the next. Not only are assessed values unpredictable, but special levies sneak onto our tax bills because they were voted on in elections with low voter turnout.

Impact of population growth on seniors and other taxpayers. Senior citizens on a fixed income should NEVER be driven from their homes due to unpredictable and rising property taxes. It's not reasonable to demand individuals on a fixed income pay to provide infrastructure to people who are moving here.

Rising taxes fuels increased government spending. Rising property taxes, like other taxes, contribute to growth in the size of government. Nothing chokes economic growth and personal freedom like taking money out of our pockets and using it to create more bureaucracy. We want the government to operate inside a budget just like the rest of us.

The Solution

Property taxes fund essential services in schools, and in our county and city governments. If you eliminate property taxes, funding for local governments must come from the state. You will have the state government dictating to the municipal governments how to run themselves. It will be disastrous! However, action must be taken to relieve Idahoans of the increasingly heavy burden of property taxes.

As a finance expert, Ed is uniquely qualified to innovate sound solutions to the tax problems in our state. His solutions for property tax relief are sound and simple:

1. When you buy your home, you should know what the maximum property tax cost will be over the lifetime of owning the home.
2. Property tax increases should be capped at no more than 2% per year. Ed's proposed Taxpayer's Bill or Rights (TABOR) will require voters to approve tax increases on the ballot, putting you in control of how much tax revenue the government can keep.
3. Supplemental levies from schools, which significantly impact property taxes, were ruled unconstitutional by the Idaho Supreme Court. As Governor, I will demand every agency of the state government to honor and respect the Constitution.

Bottom Line: Growth should pay for itself! No one should lose their home from unpredictable and skyrocketing property taxes.