6. The elimination of the State's inventory tax. The State Legislators took credit for eliminating this but did not tell you it would be picked up as a increase in your property taxes.

7. The State brags about balancing the State budget. Remember they did it by putting more cost on the local taxpayer's property taxes.

8. The State Legislators increased their share of our River Boat monies. Why? To help balance their budget; thus putting further cost on local property taxes.

9. Under evaluation of the industrial properties in Lake County in the special unfunded mandated reassessment by the State. This was by far the worst reassessment ever done in Lake County.

All the above had a tremendous effect on our property tax. Who gets the blame? Lake County elected officials.

So, the answer from the General assembly…. If we don't pass a county Option income Tax the State Legislators will punish Lake County. How much more can they punish the 500,00 people in Lake County? There already is a tremendous burden on homeowners with big steel and oil companies getting an excessive reduction in property taxes.

Can we reduce the cost of county government? Most certainly and hopefully when we veto the 1% County Option Income Tax. All government agencies will have to look within and make the necessary cost reductions to enable every citizen to live their dream without the fear of losing their homes. It's time to eliminate local property taxes. That's not impossible and I feel the best answer to our property tax crisis.

Smaller government from the Federal, State, County, Cities, Towns & Townships is needed. Not one governmental group is responsible for our present problems. Every elected official must respond in a constructive way to bring honest reform to each and every person they represent. We can all do better and we must.

Gerry J. Scheub
Lake County Commissioner, 2nd District