

## **Candidate Ronald E. Levy**

### ***Responses to St. Louis County Executive Candidate Questions***

***August 2014***

1. If a homeowner has lost their job and income or signed a mortgage with monthly payments that they cannot properly pay, then this can result in foreclosure. What would really help is to eliminate taxes paid on their homes. Mortgage payments can be adjusted, but taxes on your home, if not paid for 3 years, can result in losing the home for taxes due.

The following can be abolished:

1. School property taxes
  2. Reassessment increases
  3. The statewide 1 cent sales tax for education
  4. The portion of the county tax rates used for county employees pensions and health insurance. This would mean repealing Missouri Constitution Article VI Section 25 on pensions and Article XIII Sections 1 and 2 on health insurance.
2. Less taxes or no taxes to pay would help economic development.
  3. Less taxes or no taxes to pay would help communities. The \$1.70 commercial surcharge tax on business property really hurts Missouri businesses, especially small businesses which provide most of the jobs. This is the highest tax rate in Missouri and can be repealed by the state legislature.
  4. Less taxes or no taxes to pay would help large scale economic development.
  5. My big concern, and it should be everyone's big concern, is what to do about the increase of single parent households and babies being born into instant poverty. This could cause pockets of high poverty areas in St. Louis County. Where are the fathers?
  6. Personally I take walks in my neighborhood every day. I used public transportation to get back and forth to work, but had to transfer to another bus or streetcar to get to work in the downtown area for 32 years. I also used express buses. But now jobs are scattered throughout the area.
  7. Using trolley buses ,where practical, is less expensive than laying tracks on north and south routes. North and south routes should be thought of as express routes as a means of transferring to east and west routes. With jobs scattered all over the area, it could require using two transfer situations to get to your goal. The result would be fewer cars using our streets and less money needed to expand highway lanes.
  8. See my campaign message at <http://issuesbyronlevy.blogspot.com/>