

RESOLUTION No. 2022-1 OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY,
INDIANA IN SUPPORT OF REVIEWING ALL POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES OTHER THAN RAISING THE LOCAL
INCOME TAX (LIT) TO PROVIDE EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION

WHEREAS, this body is acutely aware of the need to provide competitive salaries and bonuses to help us retain our qualified workforce and maintain a high level of employee morale, and

WHEREAS, the County Auditor contended at the Nov. 3, 2021 commission meeting and followed up with an email to this body on November 5, 2021 that "an increase in the county income tax may very well be the *only* plausible way to create a long term solution to the problem of underpaid employees," and

WHEREAS, the County Auditor emailed the County Council on October 25, 2021 to confirm that the county's current .95 per hundred county income tax rate is one of the lowest in Indiana as he advocated for a .30 per hundred increase in the current rate, and

WHEREAS, this body is strongly *opposed* to any increases in local income taxes, particularly when there is projected to be a \$5.1 billion state surplus by June 30th and state government needs to do a better job of "revenue sharing" with local entities to assist not only with public safety salaries but other local needs including consideration given to a portion of the surplus dedicated to a "Public Safety Trust" that would generate fund income every year to be shared with local government entities, and

WHEREAS, rather than consider creative solutions to aid local governments on long term salary increases, there is actually consideration being given in this session of the legislature to eliminating the business personal property tax, a move that would cost La Porte County government \$3.3 million per year and that is unnecessary since Indiana's business tax climate is already considered one of the best in the country, and

WHEREAS, with the receipt of \$21.3 million in ARP funds and tens of millions more expected from the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill, these new federal funds approved by the President and Congress will take pressure off of local government general funds, allowing continued consideration of salary increases *without* raising local taxes, and

WHEREAS, state government needs to provide additional flexibility to use funds in other restricted accounts to assist the General Fund - specifically in La Porte County, our current LIT fund has a balance of \$10.3 million, our Emergency Relief Fund has \$8 million and there is nearly \$7 million in our Major Moves Accounts and it is necessary for the legislature to direct the Department of Local Government and Finance (DLGF) to restore a measure of "home rule" so that local elected bodies have greater flexibility for inter-fund transfers than currently exists, and

WHEREAS, the State of Indiana is currently holding a reserve of roughly three quarters of a billion dollars in LIT funds which should be distributed to local entities rather than being hoarded in surplus accounts in Indianapolis, and

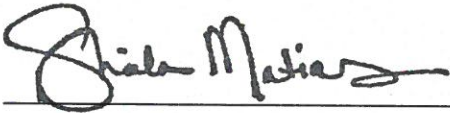
WHEREAS, state government should explore alternative forms of taxation that do *not* adversely impact ordinary working families but assist in providing needed funds to local government to support public services such as consideration for "financial transaction taxes" where taxes would be levied on the transfers of certain financial instruments such as stocks, bonds or derivatives and further research given to imposing increased taxes on internet gaming,

ORIGINAL

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LA PORTE COUNTY INDIANA THAT WE STAND FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY INCREASE IN THE CURRENT .95 LOCAL INCOME TAX (LIT) RATE AS UNNECESSARY AS THERE ARE ANY NUMBER OF VIABLE ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS THOSE INDICATED ABOVE THAT CAN AND WILL PROVIDE THE NEEDED RESOURCES FOR US TO PAY FOR APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION FOR OUR DEDICATED WORKFORCE NOW AND IN THE FUTURE.

All of which is resolved this 19th day of January, 2022

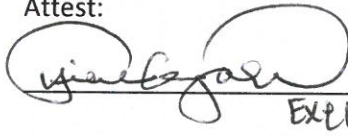
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS





**Commissioner Haney
Abstained**

Attest:


_____ EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

ORIGINAL