



www.trac-il.org

867 W. Buckingham Place | Chicago, IL 60657 |

Archer Heights Civic Association
Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation
Bowmanville Community Organization
Bucktown Community Organization
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Chinese American Service League
East Lakeview Neighbors
Edgewater Community Council
Erie Neighborhood House
Greater Rockwell Organization
Hamlin Park Neighborhood Association
Hawthorne Neighbors
Horner Park West Neighborhood Association
Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association
Lake View Citizens' Council
Lakewood Balmoral Residents Council
Lincoln Central
M.A.G.I.C. Woodlawn
North Logan Square Block Club
Northcenter/Lincoln Square Neighborhood Association
Northcenter Chamber of Commerce
Old Irving Park Association
Pilsen Alliance
Portage Park Neighborhood Association
Ravenswood Community Council
Smith Park Neighborhood Association
South Lake View Neighborhood Association
Southport Neighbors
Triangle Neighbors
U.N.I.T.E. Civic
Ukrainian Village Preservation Society
WECAN
West DePaul Neighborhood Association
West Walker Association
Wicker Park Committee
Wrightwood Neighbors

**TAX REFORM ACTION COALITION
7% PROPERTY ASSESSMENT TAX CAP POSITION PAPER
as of May 23, 2007
Adopted by its Board of Directors**

TRAC SUPPORTS:

**7% Expanded Homeowners Exemption
with the maximum benefit for homeowners,
including a \$60,000 cap on the exemption**

Legislation which includes the Returning Veteran's Homestead Exemption

Senior Citizens who qualify for the Senior Citizens Exemption do not need to reapply on an annual basis

TRAC WILL NOT OPPOSE:

**7% Expanded Homeowners Exemption
with reduced benefit for homeowners,
including a \$40,000 exemption cap in each of the three triennial years**

30-20-10 ?

TRAC cannot comment on the specifics of proposed legislation which sets the Expanded Homeowners Exemption on a sliding scale (i.e., \$30,000 in the first year, \$20,000 in the second year, and \$10,000 in the third year) since TRAC has not been provided a copy of this legislation for review.

TRAC understands, however, that the net effect of this sliding scale would be to effectively maintain the cap at \$20,000 over a three year triennial, benefiting fewer homeowners than provisions of the \$60,000 or \$40,000 cap legislation; or even the current \$20,000 cap (as assessments have re-increased since the previous triennial reassessment). In addition, the 30-20-10 may be used as a stepping stone to phase out the Expanded Homeowners Exemption in the following triennial with no replacement relief.

TRAC believes that by passing the 30-20-10 option we would be asking to sell out our least-able-to-pay coalition members by reducing relief. We cannot in good conscience support legislation that allows the most vulnerable of us to lose our homes.

TRAC OPPOSES ALLOWING THE 7% CAP TO FAIL

Many families will be faced with devastating financial circumstances if the Illinois Legislature allows the 7% Cap to fail. Such as Reyna, a single mother who bought a home through the affordable housing program in Humboldt Park called "New Homes for Chicago" in 2001. Her reassessment notice for 2006 (PIN# 13-36-322-039-0000) shows her assessed value going from \$14,078 to \$40,984, an increase of 291%! Without any relief her taxes will more than double - going from \$2,000 to an estimated \$5,400 a year, an unbearable burden which the 7% Cap can alleviate.