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Zap the Caps Committee Records, 1996

COLLECTION 59

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Sherrie Bowser

Creator/Corporate name: 'Zap the Caps' Committee Records

Inclusive Dates: 1996.

Physical Description: 1 box, (0.5 linear feet).

Provenance:

Items in this collection were donated by C.K. Gunsalus in June 2014.

Access:

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Historical Note:

In August 1996 the Campaign County Board passed a motion for property tax caps to be placed on the November 5th ballot. Property tax caps limit taxing bodies to increasing aggregate property tax extensions by the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less.

'Zap the Caps' was a countywide coordinating committee to help groups in Champaign County organize opposition to the property tax caps. The purpose of the 12 member committee was to research and distribute information about the potentially damaging effects of tax caps on property tax dependent entities such as school districts, parks, and other public services. The committee also was responsible for bulk-buying campaign materials such as yard signs and brochures.

C.K. 'Tina' Gunsalus, president of the Urbana School Board, was chair of the coordinating committee. Other members include: Diane Baker (Gifford School Board), Paul A. Buenting (Gifford School Board), Nancy A. Delcomyn (Urbana Park Board), Susan Hanes Helle (Fisher P.I.E.), Paul Lewis (Unit 7 School Board), Janet Rosenberger (Urbana PTA Council), Margie Skirvin (Champaign PTA Council), Nicole Storch (Champaign School Board), Leslie Vermillion (Gifford School Board), and Ruby J. Weathersby (Rantoul City Schools Board).

The tax cap legislation passed by a 51% to 49% margin on November 5, 1996.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains the working documents of the committee including correspondence, clippings, promotional materials (flyers, bumper stickers, and radio ads), reference materials regarding tax cap policies locally and throughout Illinois, and notes from public talks.



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The collection also contains additional media including: 1 videocassette, 1 audiocassette, and 7 - 3.5" computer disks.

Arrangement:

The material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Subjects Terms:

Community Organizations Records

Gunsalus, C.K.

Taxation

Container List:

Box 1

Folder 1: Champaign County Board, 1996

Folders 2-3: Clippings, 1996

Folder 4: Correspondence, 1996

Folder 5: Handouts Re: Urbana School Board Budget, 1996

Folder 6: Media

Cassette 1: Committee to Zap the Caps, 3x:30 radio, 'Fixed Income,' 'Permanent,' and 'Sore Throat and No Ice Cream'

Diskette 1: Tax Caps ad (Quark) and fonts

Diskette 2: Tax Caps ad duplicate and EPS

Diskette 3: Tax Caps, September 1996

Diskette 4: Crowd.tif; school.tif; money.tif; money1.tif

Diskette 5: [No label]

Diskette 6: More tax caps, September 1997 [1996]

Diskette 7: Tax caps, September 1996

Videocassette 1: 'Tax Caps and Their Effects,' running time 27:06, October 9, 1996

Folder 7: Notes/To-Do Items, 1996

Folder 8: Promotional Materials (flyers, bumper stickers), 1996

Folder 9: Promotional Materials, Originals, 1996

Folder 10: Radio Ads, 1996

Folders 11-12: Reference Materials, 1995-1996

Folder 12: Requests for Bumper stickers and yard signs, 1996

Folder 13: Talk Notes, 1996

Folder 14: Telephone Numbers, 1996