

# Stop Taxing the Future out of Wilmette!

## TOP 10 Reasons District 39 Should NOT INCREASE Wilmette Property Taxes AGAIN

Share these with friends, neighbors, and the D39 school board  
Monday night December 18th at 6:30 p.m!

- 10.** **Values of taxable property have fallen 17% since 2009 yet D39 schools have received 37% more** from taxpayers... more school spending is not leading to higher property values. [www.wirepoints.com](http://www.wirepoints.com)
- 9.** **Student enrollment is expected to decline by 292 students over next 5 years.** (D39 11/13/17 BOE Report "Long Term Enrollment Projections")
- 8.** **D39 has not reduced overall spending since the 2009-2010 school year** when, because of pressure by Wilmette residents, it identified and made \$4.5 million in cuts at that time *that did NOT affect education delivery*.
- 7.** **Illinois is losing people at an all time high rate** due to the tax climate according to November 2017 IRS report. More taxes means people will leave.
- 6.** **Federal tax reform could cap your property tax deduction** starting in 2018—the cap is below the average that many Wilmette residents pay. Illinois already has the highest overall tax burden in the nation. It all adds up.
- 5.** **More school spending does not equal better schools;** many districts spend less per pupil and obtain higher rankings. (<http://www.ilinoisreportcard.com> and [www.schooldigger.com](http://www.schooldigger.com)).
- 4.** When an anticipated state property tax freeze and pension shift to Wilmette taxpayers did not occur, these **funds were used for expensive capital projects instead, such as the \$5.5 million Learning Commons** in five of the six D39 schools.
- 3.** **39 of the 50 constituents** who recently wrote the Board of Education **supporting the levy** (i.e. tax increase), recently **sought reductions in their personal property tax bills** through the property tax appeal process. Six of seven D39 Board members did the same. Together, they lowered their estimated property values by millions of dollars. Remember: when one assessment goes down and they pay less, someone else has to pay more for the same school budget to be met.
- 2.** **Wilmette D39 total receipts grew by 36.7%, or an average of 4.0% annually from 2008 - 2016.** The rate of CPI (inflation) during that time period was 1.37%. D39's increases are not "keeping up with CPI"; they are outpacing it by a factor of nearly 3.
- 1.** **D39 habitually extends the levy (i.e. increases your taxes) every year.** As the D39 Business Manager stated in the 10/23/17 BOE memo: "It is important to levy [tax] to the fullest extent possible under the tax cap because any loss in revenue due to under levying is lost forever." **The school district should levy when it needs money, not simply because it can.**

- **Sign the petition at [www.newtrierneigbors.org](http://www.newtrierneigbors.org)**
- **Attend the December 18 D39 school board meeting (6:30 p.m., 615 Locust) to make your voice heard.**

**Tell the D39 school board "NO!" to an Unneeded \$2 million Property Tax Increase! Stop Taxing the Future out of Wilmette!**

NEW TRIER  
NEIGHBORS



Building Community  
through Common Sense,  
Free Enterprise and  
The Golden Rule