

March 14, 2008



Dear Mr. Ryerson and Mr. Swarens:

I applaud the Indianapolis Star's position concerning local government reform (*Another job still undone: smaller government*, March 12, 2008). As state lawmakers begin to reach a consensus on some sort of property tax relief, the overriding larger picture remains unaddressed.

The Star references recommendations of former Governor Joe Kernan and state Supreme Court Justice Randall Shepard, co-chairs of the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, for the "elimination of all township offices." Further, the Star reiterates the fact that true property tax reform must be accompanied by a reduction in the size of government:

"Unless heightened efficiency, better transparency and more accountability are brought to local government operations, then any property tax plan that emerges from the General Assembly this week could provide only temporary relief."

This is precisely why I am running to be the State Representative of House District 40. It has been my experience that the old guard is fairly well established in their ways and for them, reducing the size of local government may very well alienate political supporters whose positions would be in jeopardy.

It's time for fresh, common-sense leadership from individuals who truly desire to represent the interests of the residents rather than those of political cronies. The only long term solution to reduced property taxes is to reduce the waste inherent in an over-bloated government.

The people of this state still have a voice, and I hope they exercise it loud and clear in the primaries and in the general election.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Rice". The signature is stylized and fluid, with the first and last letters being particularly prominent.

Zach Rice  
Candidate, Indiana House of Representatives District 40