

TUANEWS RELEASE

TAXPAYERS UNITED OF AMERICA

407 S. Dearborn Street • Suite 1170 • Chicago, IL 60605-1150 • Fax: (312) 427-5139

• www.taxpayersunited.org • E-mail: tobin@taxpayersunited.org

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Contact: Jim Tobin (312) 320-4101
(312) 427-5128

Taxpayers Oppose City of Princeton's Referendum for 'Unlimited Home Rule Taxing Power' on March 20

CHICAGO--The President of Taxpayers United of America (TUA) today urged voters in the City of Princeton, Illinois, to vote "NO" on the March 20 referendum to adopt unlimited home rule taxing power, adding, "Compared to the average income in Princeton, city politicians and bureaucrats already are living like kings."

"Right now, the City of Princeton must have support from a majority of voters in order to raise city taxes," said Tobin. "If unlimited home rule taxing power is passed, the city could raise property taxes and create new taxes without asking voters for approval. In addition, adopting home rule would exempt the City of Princeton from the current 5% property tax cap. The city could then raise city property taxes by any amount, any time."

"Home rule also would allow the City of Princeton to impose new taxes on businesses, gasoline, groceries, parking, and almost anything else."

"Current and retired city bureaucrats already are rolling in money compared with Princeton residents. They don't need more money from Princeton residents. The average annual income in Princeton is only \$37,000, the median value of a home is only \$102,000, and current unemployment stands at 10.2%. However, the current city salary (as of 12/31/11) of Jeffrey Fiegenschuh is \$112,799, and the city salary of Leroy Drake is \$111,263."

"Retired Princeton bureaucrats also are raking in the dough. William Spitler pulls in \$70,766 in pension benefits each year, and so far has collected total pension benefits of \$932,639. Barry Schultz pulls in \$59,729 in pension benefits each year and already has collected total pension benefits of \$830,092."

"Politicians are notorious for scheduling home rule and property tax increase referenda during primaries, when voter-turnout is low. This March 20, if only 10% of voters turn out, Princeton bureaucrats, who will be out in force, will be able to pass this home rule referendum easily."

"Princeton voters should go to the polls this March 20, along with their family members and neighbors, and vote 'NO' on the unlimited home rule taxing power referendum."