



Switzerland County's Property Tax Rate is Among the Lowest in Indiana

Switzerland County's property tax rate is once again among the lowest in Indiana. According to information provided by the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University, Switzerland County's median property tax rate is the eighth lowest of Indiana's 92 counties. This is for taxes payable in 2014. The median property tax rate in Switzerland County is 1.18%. 61% of the median property tax rate for Indiana overall at 1.93%.

In terms of Southeast Indiana counties, Switzerland County's median tax rate is second lowest of the region. The Switzerland county median rate is also second lowest among all riverboat gaming communities statewide. 12 Indiana Counties have a property tax rate that is more than twice the Switzerland County rate.

The total property tax rate is the combination of several taxing units including County, Town, and

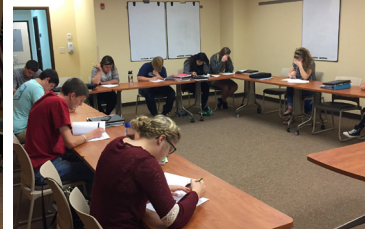
Township Governments the rate can vary from one town or township to another.

The two main factors in determining an individual property tax bill are the assessed valuation of the property and the property tax rate. A change in either of these two factors can raise or increase an individual tax bill.

The methods and guidelines for assessing the tax value of property in Indiana are set by the state, leaving very little control at the local level. Unlike many other counties in Indiana, Switzerland County has been able to keep property taxes lower by maintaining a lower rate. County property tax data is available online at <http://www.stats.indiana.edu/>.



Busy Year at Switzerland County Technology and Education Center



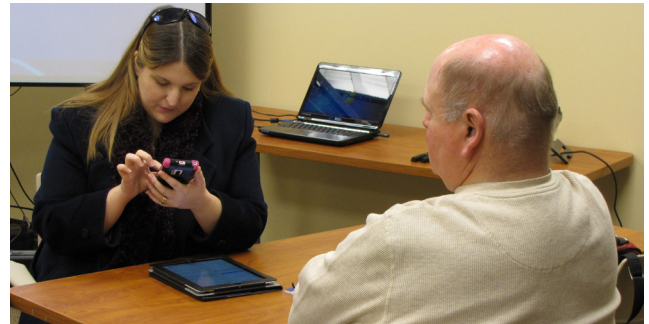
Tech Support Day

Technology changes faster today than ever before, and keeping up with these changes isn't always easy. The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation's EcO15 initiative tried to make it a little bit easier.

On January 30, 2014, the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center sponsored "Tech Support Day at the TEC". Residents, employees, and business owners with questions about how to use their computers, tablets, smartphones, or any other technology device were invited to bring their questions (and their devices) to the TEC Center, where personalized assistance was offered to help answer their questions.

Technology specialists fielded questions about how to

format spreadsheets, how to program smartphones to receive emails, how to link home computers with their new tablets, and several other issues. This service was provided at no cost to residents by the SCEDC and its workforce development program.



Ivy Tech Continues Course Offerings

Ivy Tech Community College will again offer a summer credit course at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center.

COMM 101, Fundamentals of Public Speaking, will be offered on Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the TEC Center. Classes begin June 11, 2014 and will conclude on July 30.

The course features a combination of in-class lectures, exercises, and speeches, along with independent online assignments. Students will earn three college credits, which are transferable to many colleges and universities.

Fundamentals of Public Speaking introduces core

concepts and skills for effective public speaking, including audience analysis, outlining, research, delivery, critical listening and evaluation, presentational aids, and use of appropriate technology.

The prerequisites for COMM 101 include a demonstrated competency through appropriate assessment or earning a grade of "C" or better in (ENGL 093 and ENGL 083) or ENGL 095. To register for this course, or for answers to questions about enrollment and fees, contact Ivy Tech's Madison campus at 1-812-265-2580.





WorkOne

Southeast

Workforce Investment Board

In Indiana, federal and state workforce development services are overseen by 12 regional boards comprised of community employers and business services professionals. These boards determine priority programs for funding, which services are provided to residents, and where WorkOne Centers are located. This way of operating reflects the federal mandate to allow local communities to decide which services are most useful to their residents.

Switzerland County is part of Region 9, which is known as the Southeast Indiana Workforce Investment Board (SEWIB). Switzerland County Commissioner Mark Lohide represents our county on the Local Elected Official council of the board, and Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation Vice-President

Mike Busch represents the county on the Workforce Investment Board.

Working with the SEWIB, the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center arranged for state and federal workforce services to be available here to our residents. Every Tuesday, the WorkOne center of Madison staffs an office at the TEC Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Switzerland County resident Rosie Rohmann, a WorkOne employee, is available to help residents with unemployment claims, workforce training services, finding available jobs in the area, and creating resumes that help residents obtain those jobs. Appointments are not necessary, and most services are provided at no cost to Switzerland County residents.

High School Education Program

Data from Indiana University shows that in 2012, 21.4% of Switzerland County residents lack a high school diploma. That's an alarming statistic, because a high school diploma is the basic requirement for most post-high school training and educational opportunities. Wages for residents without a high school diploma average over \$8,000 less than their neighbors with a high school diploma. Finding a job without a high school diploma is harder, too: the unemployment rate for adults without a diploma is over 5% higher than the rate for those with a diploma.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development switched its high school equivalency test from the GED to the Test Assessing Secondary Completion, or TASC. It is computer-based, although a paper-based test is available. The test will become progressively more difficult over the next few years, allowing for a transition from the GED test to the TASC.

In Switzerland County, adult residents wanting to complete their high school education have a free resource available to help them. The High School Equivalency Class at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center is offered year-round except during the month of July. The class meets on Mondays and Tuesdays. Classes are self-paced, meaning each person progresses at his/her own comfort levels, while a professional adult education instructor is on hand to assist when needed with individualized help.

For more information on the High School Equivalency Class at the Switzerland County Technology and Education Center, call the HSE Hotline at 1-855-591-7849.





Partnership Brings National Consultant to Switzerland County

The Switzerland County Economic Development Corporation and The Switzerland County Technology and Education Center have partnered with Vevay Main Street and the Southeast Indiana Small Business Development Corporation to sponsor a national business consultant for a series of local seminars and one-on-one meetings with local businesses.

Marc Willson has been a Retail and Restaurant Consultant since 2009, bringing 35 years of experience to clients. He has delivered over 300 seminars and assisted thousands of retailers and restaurateurs through seminars and direct consultation.

In 1975, Marc started his retail career as co-owner of the largest distributor of Earth Shoes in the U.S. Since then he has held executive positions with retailers such as Circuit City, Ecampus.com and Storetrax, Inc. Most recently, he traveled to Dallas, Texas to open the world's first energy efficiency store for Current Energy, LLC, a company funded partially by Ross Perot.

On August 14, the community will host Mr. Willson for a public speech on the topic of "TEAM Eventacular—Towns, Events and Merchants Partnering for Profits" which is geared toward restaurant, retail and service owners and managers.

Other Topics Include:

- Local events - a mainstay of small towns throughout Indiana
- Why Merchants should take full advantage of the bountiful influx of potential customers
- Before the event
- Day of the event
- After the event
- General overview of the best business practices

During Mr. Willson's visit, he will also be available for consultations with area businesses upon request.

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