

## About Amy\*, Furniture, and the Sales Tax Increase...

My wife visited a Furniture Store in Kenwood Towne Center recently to replace some aging items and met up with Amy a capable worker in the Bed and Furnishing's area. At the end of their discussion Amy stressed these important words about our upcoming purchase--"Make sure to buy before November 1, 2007 as the Sales Tax is going up then." Amy's words are telling.

The sellers of big ticket items in Hamilton County can already see the writing on the wall. How many people in Hamilton County will get in their car to save \$7.50 on a \$1000 flat screen TV or a new lawn mower? My guess is many. If you've had a chance to talk to smokers who cross the border to smoke, you will find that people will do just about anything against something they think is unfair. To an angry taxpayer a two mile drive is a bargain to save the price of a lunch or two gallons of gas.

With Butler County's sales tax rate going down to 6.25% January 1, the difference between our counties is huge. We are about to write our own ticket to second or third place. How many jobs will this cost?

Our sales tax system is already built around a mini-pyramid scheme with so much of our sales tax resources devoted to the payment of our stadium debt. What happens if our sales tax collection actually goes down when we raise the sales tax--do the citizens get another little stadium present in the form of a new tax?

With all the threats posed to us if we don't pass this tax, it reminds me a lot of a school levy. The difference between a school levy and this plan is at least the School Board doesn't come to you in the end and say "By the way we don't even have money to operate the school" (like the county has said about the jail). Portune and Pepper's Plan is disingenuous. Where has all the money gone? Should we call the Sheriff and report it missing?

The decision I want someone to explain to me is why we go for a \$800 million tax increase when we only need \$200 million (the cost of the jail). Why put our county in an uncompetitive position? At least Amy and 55,000 voters get it.

Dan Regenold  
Chairman, WeDemandAVote.com  
513-544-9014

PS—Amy\* is real and this is a real story. Her name in the story is changed per her request.

Dan Regenold is a Hamilton County Business and Property Owner.

