

CROSBY ISD TAX BASE

The Crosby ISD tax base increased from \$1,114,321,782 for school year 2007/2008, to \$1,221,979,215 in school year 2008/2009, for an increase of \$107,657,433 in taxable value. At the **present** tax rate of \$1.34/\$100, that will generate an added +/--\$1,442,000 flowing into the coffers of CISD for school year 2008/2009. That is not a bad increase in today's economy, and yet they are telling us that they want **more money**. Their proposed \$0.10 tax increase would generate another +/--\$2,000,000/year for them. With +/-5,000 students, each \$1,000,000 in added income works out to \$200 per student. I would gladly pay the extra \$0.10/\$100 if I felt like it would be spent wisely. Unfortunately, I do not feel that way. While serving on the last Long Range Planning Committee I saw too much waste and mismanagement. I got the feeling that the administration was calling the shots, and the board was being used to rubber stamp administration ideas. That is bad chemistry. They don't need more money. They need to sit down and tend to business. They need to empower their employees by listening to their thoughts and needs. I heard several good suggestions from CISD employees on our many tours of the campuses. It was obvious that those employees felt like they were not being listened to. Who decided to **never** hire a qualified, professional construction inspection firm to inspect the many millions of dollars worth of construction that CISD has funded in the past? I don't think that any of the teachers or principals made that decision, but because that decision was made, we have auditoriums that flood, gym floors with 1/8" cracks between the boards, doors that don't open (talk about a fire safety hazard), and roofs that leak long before they are due to be replaced. It is not good management to spend millions of dollars of tax payer money on construction, and let your grounds maintenance guy do the inspections. Yes, professional, trained inspectors cost money, but their charges are probably less than your first repair bill. This is just one more example of the CISD top down management style. That culture needs to change before they ask the tax payers for more money. We need to have confidence that the tax dollars will be spent prudently. I tried my best to convince the board and administration to include professional inspection costs in their last bond sale proposal. Instead, without anybody picking up the phone and calling me to discuss it, they included inspections into the "Various" category to the tune of \$50,000 for a proposed \$103,000,000 construction program. It should have been budgeted at about one-half percent, or \$500,000. That told me they were not interested in seeing that the jobs were done right. That is the point where I decided to do my best to see that the bond sale proposal got defeated, and that is one of the reasons why I am

opposing this proposed tax increase. There is no reason to expect that the extra tax revenue will be spent wisely and prudently. In the past, they always put several bus replacements in the budget, but the old buses (and they have some real old buses) usually don't get replaced. They treat the bus replacement money like a slush fund for whatever project that catches their fancy. That is not disciplined management. That is a bad case of "DPM" (Darned Poor Management).

For the above reasons, and more to follow, I urge you to vote "NO" on December 12th concerning the proposed CISD tax increase.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paige Stasney', written in a cursive style.

Paige Stasney