

RESOLUTION NO. 2, 2025

A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAWRENCE, INDIANA OPPOSING ANY TAX POLICY THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACTS LOCAL UNITS OF GOVERNMENT WITHOUT A CORRESPONDING REPLACEMENT REVENUE STREAM IMPLEMENTED BY THE STATE OF INDIANA

WHEREAS, state leaders and lawmakers have advocated for and proposed multiple pieces of legislation in the 2025 legislative session that will cut residential and business personal property bills for homeowners and businesses and change how these tax liabilities are calculated; and

WHEREAS, homeowners deserve affordable tax bills and adequate public services in exchange; and

WHEREAS, the proposals garnering the most attention would have an impact on municipal taxing units exceeding \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS, a local income tax adoption option could be a helpful tool for some units; however, it is not at all adequate to replace the magnitude of what is being eliminated, making it a necessity rather than an option; and

WHEREAS, with an essentially mandated income tax increase being the only alternative proposed by lawmakers, the homeowners who these tax measures endeavor to assist will be among the same individuals paying the income tax, making businesses the only recipient of the tax cuts; and

WHEREAS, those individuals who do not own their own home would see a tax increase; and

WHEREAS, if the proposed measures are adopted, the City of Lawrence will be forced to make significant cuts to public safety, debt obligations, and potentially other municipal services services; and

WHEREAS, with the stress the measures being considered will put on the City of Lawrence's budgets, bonding or saving money for new development will be nearly impossible, sending the City of Lawrence and the State of Indiana several steps back in our efforts to attract and retain a talented workforce; and

WHEREAS, these unprecedented cuts in government services are being proposed when, despite the success of Community Crossings, municipalities are imploring legislators to at least preserve the status quo in terms of road funding so as not to compound the well-documented, high percentage of Hoosier roads that continue to be in less than satisfactory condition; and

WHEREAS, as of this date the statewide local impact of the primary tax-related bills is estimated to be over \$2 billion, a staggering figure, that would cause widespread negative effects, increase tax burdens on individuals, while offering even more relief to businesses in an already business tax-friendly state; and

WHEREAS, these significant real property and business personal property tax cuts, along with changes to how property taxes are calculated, could potentially result in an estimated loss of \$2 million in tax revenues for the City of Lawrence.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Lawrence, Indiana as follows:

SECTION 1. The City of Lawrence opposes any tax policy that negatively impacts local units of government without a corresponding replacement revenue stream implemented by the State of Indiana and that harms our ability to carry out the expectations of Hoosiers now and into the future.

SECTION 2. This Resolution shall take full force and effect upon its passage.

ADOPTED this _____ day of April 2025

Attest: _____
Leatrice Adkisson,
City Clerk

Zach Cramer,
President

Presented by me to the Mayor of the City of Lawrence, Indiana, this_____ day of April, 2025, at _____ o'clock _____.m.

Leatrice Adkisson, City Clerk

Presented to me and signed this _____ day of April, 2025, at _____ o'clock _____.m.

Deborah Whitfield, Mayor