

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-2

**A RESOLUTION URGING CAUTION ON PROPERTY TAX LEGISLATION**

WHEREAS, all property tax dollars collected from city residents and businesses go directly to city, county, township, library, and schools, providing police, fire, dispatch, street, park, educational, and other services; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana legislature has proposed drastic changes to Indiana's property tax system in their 2025 legislative session; and

WHEREAS, many of the challenges currently in the property tax system are related to inflationary and market-driven increases, and associated to assessed value growth. Growth of government has little effect and impact on the current property tax situation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia City supports targeted legislation that financially benefits seniors, veterans, and lower income individuals, while safeguarding the city's ability to provide basic services to residents; and

WHEREAS, any contemplated revenue decreases to municipalities should be replaced with a stable, sustainable source of revenue that continues to grow over time; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbia City's sole goal is to provide high value, high impact, and low-cost services to residents and businesses. Drastic reduction in property tax revenue to the city, or zero-growth budgets (as currently proposed) would hamper the city's efforts and potentially force the city to cut certain non-critical services that residents desire; and

WHEREAS, population and business growth is predicated on strong quality of life amenities that require continued investment by local governments; and

WHEREAS, proposed legislation in the Indiana General Assembly would either cut hundreds of thousands of dollars to the city's budget or would drastically limit any future increases to the budget, despite continuous residential and business growth within the city limits; and

WHEREAS, like the impact felt by all businesses, inflationary increases have caused skyrocketing prices for materials, chemicals, and equipment that are necessary for city services; and

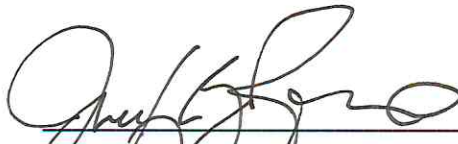
WHEREAS, the Tax Foundation's 2025 property tax competitiveness report ranks Indiana to have the 5<sup>th</sup> best property tax rate in the nation and the #1 property tax rate in the Midwest. The Tax Foundation also ranks Indiana as the 10<sup>th</sup> best overall tax environment and the 3<sup>rd</sup> best state for business competitiveness in the nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Common Council, Mayor, and Clerk-Treasurer of the City of Columbia City that it strongly urges legislators to resist wholesale changes to the property tax system. We encourage our legislators to focus on targeted relief, considering stable revenue replacement for municipalities, stand against arbitrary caps in budget growth, and ensure the city can financially provide services to its residents and business now and in the future.

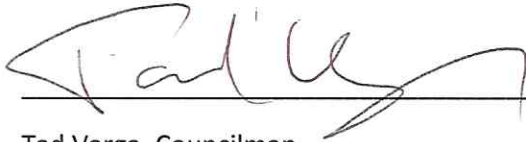
Passed on this day, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, by the Common Council of the City of Columbia City.



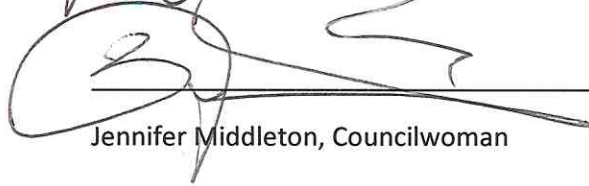
Daniel Weigold, Council President



Jennifer Zartman-Romano, Councilwoman



Tad Varga, Councilman



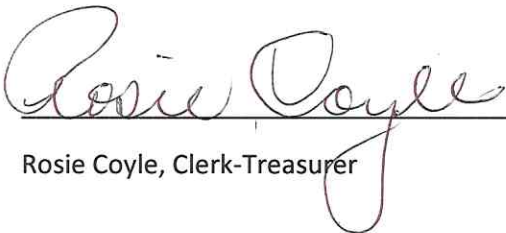
Jennifer Middleton, Councilwoman



Leslee Robinson, Councilwoman



Ryan L. Daniel, Mayor



Rosie Coyle, Clerk-Treasurer