



OPINION

VIEWS FROM INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE H-Z

assessed value frozen for tax purposes, their bill this year will be less. That is because a lower rate, on an unchanged base, results in a reduced bill.

Meanwhile our youngsters will also have the lower rate BUT it will be based on the considerable increase in appraised (market) values of their property. Thus their bill will go up.

At the same time, the budgets for both taxing entities must go up because their expenses are rising (have you priced concrete lately?).

All of this is a result of the political decision years ago to satisfy the pleadings of older citizens. They asked to have their values frozen so they would pay less property tax.

Therefore since budgets went up (along with costs) the young had to not only pay their share but also some of the share of the old. Each year the imbalance has increased.

Now look at ability to pay.

Most of the over-60s have a guaranteed income and, in the majority of the years, it has increased. Most also have health insurance.

Most of the under-60s are not even assured of a paycheck next week. In this economy, they have seen jobs disappear overnight. Their medical insurance expires with their work.

As if that were not enough, and on top of all this, we are leaving our children with a huge national debt.

The disparity deepens.

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Tax structure burdens the young

When the tax rate is reduced by the commissioners or school board it amounts to a further imbalance in property tax sharing. The old pay less; the young pay more.

Here is the calculation.

For elderly people, who have their