

Clay County Voters Reject Real Estate Transfer Tax

09-03-2008

HAYESVILLE – Clay County voters overwhelmingly rejected a real estate transfer tax referendum in a special Friday election called by the county commissioners. With 9 of 9 precincts reporting and early votes tabulated, the Clay County Board of Elections unofficial results show 1,603 voters (60.70%) cast ballots against the referendum while 1,038 voters (39.30%) supported the measure. Voter turnout for the Friday election was 31.98%, according to the Clay County Board of Elections.

“In another county, in the deepest, western reaches of the state, voters have told county commissioners and state lawmakers they strongly oppose the real estate transfer tax. Voters understand the ‘Home Tax’ is a tax on the equity in their home. It’s a tax on their hard work and success,” said Tim Kent, Executive Vice President with the North Carolina Association of Realtors.

“This victory is the result of a lot of hard work from local residents and volunteers who sent a clear cut message that can be heard across Clay County and all the way into the chambers of North Carolina’s Legislature. In 20 counties and 21 elections, voters have overwhelmingly said NO to the real estate transfer taxes,” said Kent.

“This is another victory for the homeowners who are opposing efforts to pass a narrow tax that hurts young couples, working families and senior citizens. It’s a tax on the American Dream. It’s a tax that punishes people who work hard, play by the rules and try to build a better life for their families,” Kent added.

“The North Carolina Association of Realtors will continue to fight and oppose every local real estate transfer referendum with as much energy, enthusiasm and resources necessary to lead to their defeats. For more than a year, we have been telling lawmakers at the state and county level, we will work with them to address concerns about growth and financing infrastructure, but we will never support a real estate transfer tax,” stated Kent.

Mr. Kent said his group now plans to focus on defeating a similar ballot measure in Polk County during the November election. “How many times will voters across North Carolina have to cast their ballots against this measure for the county and state politicians to understand that the majority will not support this tax scheme because they know it’s a bad idea.”

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