



DATHAN PATERNO BENJAMIN SEIB

FOR DISTRICT 64 BOARD OF EDUCATION

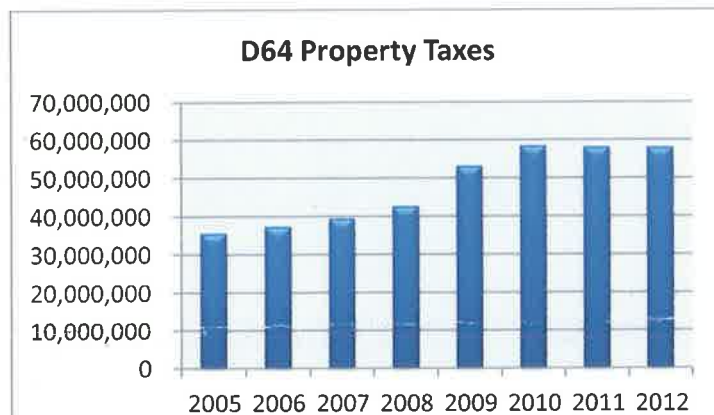
March 21, 2013

Dear District 64 Voter,

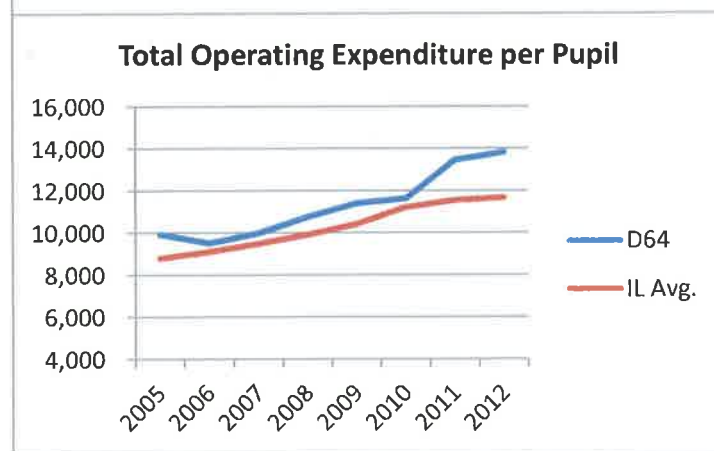
If you were able to watch last week's candidate forum, then you are already familiar with some of the views Dathan and I shared with the parents, teachers, and community members gathered that evening. If you weren't able to attend, then you can find video footage hosted by the Park Ridge Education Association on their website, www.preaonline.com. We would encourage you to check that out so you can hear our balanced platform ranging from transparency to curriculum and parental rights. Moreover, you can learn all about us through our website, www.d64candidates.com.

For tonight's second candidate forum, I wanted to leave you with something you can take home and think about between now and Election Day. As I continue to talk with more people around the community, I am learning that many do not have a clear line of sight to the finances of District 64. This handout presents two headline trends, and hopefully they will prompt your deliberation over whether they are healthy, sustainable, and in line with the value you get from District 64 as parents and taxpayers.

Trend #1: Many do not realize that the 2007 referendum was not a temporary tax increase; it allowed the district to exceed its statutory tax increase limit for two years in order to raise the base for revenue permanently. After those two years, annual tax increases were once again limited by the lesser of CPI or 5%, but the result is that property taxes from District 64 are substantially higher than they were before the referendum.



Trend #2: While the District's ability to increase revenue (taxes) each year is limited by law, there is no such control over the District's expenditures. The cost of educating children in District 64 is continuing to grow, and the gap between District 64 spending per pupil and the State of Illinois average per pupil is widening. We should expect to pay more than the state average in order to have above average schools, but District 64 schools have been better than average for a long time and for a much smaller premium than we see in recent years.



As you might guess, I have a finance background. But I am also the son of a teacher and have a deep appreciation for her profession, and that will certainly bring balance to my views on cost. Furthermore, I am the only candidate who does not yet have children, and that means my interests are particularly aligned with the long-run health and sustainability of District 64. I urge you to learn more about me (and Dathan), and we would appreciate your vote on April 9.

Ben