

## TAXES

During Grosse Pointe Shores 2009 election, incumbents promised not to raise taxes, then did exactly that during the first quarter of their term. In this depressed economy, increasing property taxes drives sinking property values down even lower.

Meanwhile, nothing is being done to address the unchecked wages, benefits and bond costs that are escalating out of control and driving our city closer to bankruptcy.

## TRANSPARENCY

Despite the incumbents' assurance of an open and transparent government, they quickly forgot this promise once the election was over.

Today, as in the past, they continue to restrict citizen access to public information, using the city attorney to support their wrongful obstruction at the taxpayers' expense.

Grosse Pointe Shores has employed its city attorney to challenge valid requests for public documents under the Freedom of Information Act, and scrutinize the campaign literature of candidates who challenged the incumbent slate.

These actions are unacceptable, but nothing will change unless **all of us** take a stand and demand better government.

**Our U.S. Armed Forces risk their lives to preserve your freedom. Honor them by exercising your democratic rights as a responsible citizen.**

## RECALL PETITION

The recall petition does not remove elected officials. It simply calls for an election to be held so that voters can decide if these officials should be removed from office. Contrary to what some detractors claim, a recall election is not costly.

## APPROVED LANGUAGE

Although there are many valid reasons for this recall, the approved language requesting the removal of the five following officials is clear and specific:

James M. Cooper, Mayor

Brian J. Hunt, City Council Member

Victoria J. Boyce, City Council Member

Robert E. Graziani, City Council Member

Frederick. K. Minturn, City Council Member

**"VOTED AT THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON JUNE 16th, 2009, TO INCREASE THE TAX RATE ON REAL ESTATE WITHIN THE CITY FOR THE 2009-2010 FISCAL YEAR."**

**IGNORE THE GOSSIP.  
LEARN THE FACTS.**

**THIS IS NOT ABOUT SOCIAL  
RELATIONS . . . THIS IS ABOUT  
SAVING OUR COMMUNITY  
FROM FINANCIAL DISASTER.**

**ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?  
YOU SHOULD BE!**

Accurate information and documents at:

[www.shoresrecall.com](http://www.shoresrecall.com)

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**DON'T BE SORRY — BE INFORMED**

# RECALL ELECTION



## WHY?

## IT'S ABOUT PLANNING AHEAD, AND RESPONSIBLE MANAGEMENT OF YOUR TAX DOLLARS!

### RESPONSIBILITY

The Mayor and Council have a legal responsibility to spend your tax dollars wisely, and in the community's best interest.

They are NOT living up  
to that responsibility!

The impact of poor financial management will fall directly on us — the Grosse Pointe Shores taxpayers!

### DEBT

The long-term debt for Grosse Pointe Shores retiree health care, pension liability and bonds is nearly \$26 Million Dollars — that's \$26,000 per household.

- Retiree health care liability = \$10M
- Pension liability = \$6.6M
- Long-term bond debt = \$9.2M

With the long-term interest payment, our bond debt jumps to \$30,500,000 — almost 6 times the estimated 2009 gross revenue for Grosse Pointe Shores. Gross revenue will continue to decrease over the next few years.

### VILLAGE TO CITY

Did Grosse Pointe Shores really need to convert from a village to a city?

Changing to a city allowed the council to do away with our more resident-friendly Village Charter and adopt a new City Charter that gives excessive power to the mayor while driving the tax ceiling up to 20 mils.

It appears that increasing taxes to cover up financial mismanagement is the **real** reason Grosse Pointe Shores converted to a city.

Council incumbents raised our taxes 1 mil in June 2009, and will raise them significantly in 2010, driving the value of our homes down even further.

Rather than improve the efficiency of our city's operations, the council intends to continue raising taxes.

Whenever budget cuts are proposed, the incumbents' first response is to threaten to eliminate services to residents. Is this the kind of leadership we want?

### PERSONNEL COSTS

Grosse Pointe Shores employment costs are out of control — \$2.5 million a year, plus benefits.

Salaried employees also get Overtime Pay.

Employees accrue up to 200 days sick pay. Why is sick pay being used for enrichment?

Today our cumulative employee unfunded sick-pay liability exceeds \$700,000.

### 2008 WAGES

- GP Shores City Manager \$207,000
- Michigan Governor Granholm \$158,000
  
- GP Shores Finance Director \$145,000
- Michigan Lieutenant Governor \$120,000
  
- GP Shores Part-Time Legal \$170,000
- Michigan Attorney General \$125,000
  
- GP Shores Park Director \$95,000
- Michigan Representative / Senator \$80,000

**Don't blame the employees —  
Blame the incumbents who led  
employees down an  
unsustainable path and allowed  
this to go on for many years!**