

Letter to the editor
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Skepticism is worthy when municipality considers TIFs

Residents of Lisle should continue to question the validity of a TIF proposal. TIFs give municipalities extraordinary powers. If an area is truly blighted, and no development would occur but for the implementation of a TIF, all taxing districts stand to gain because the tax base will eventually increase, and it is growth that would not have occurred. However, if the tax base would rise naturally or the property would have been improved without a TIF, then the taxing bodies within the TIF area lose the equalized assessed valuations that would have otherwise been theirs for 23 years!

If a TIF area is applied to land that could be developed without public intervention, the potential adverse effects could be: increasing the tax burden to taxpayers, hidden taxes that evade any referendum requirements, developers given unnecessary subsidies and municipalities given increased power over the use of the tax increment. Early citizen participation is key. Get informed! The Citizen Advocacy Center distributes free TIF guides.