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March 8, 2008

Protecting Your Wallet

As I shared with you last Saturday, Cook County President Todd Stroger was able to collect enough votes to pass a 1% increase in the Sales Tax, but Your suburban reform-minded commissioners defeated most proposals for new revenue. As Paul Harvey used to say, ***“Here’s the rest of the story”***.

Proposals submitted and the Outcome:

- **Increase Sales Tax by 2% to 2.75%** **DEFEATED!**
- **Phone Tax** – institute new tax on personal, business and mobile phones **DEFEATED!**
- **Natural Gas Tax Ordinance**, taxing the natural gas rate at 5.2 cents per therm **DEFEATED!**
- **Electricity Tax** from .32 cents to .61 cents per kilowatt-hour **DEFEATED!**
- **Tobacco Tax** extended to all tobacco products **DEFEATED!**
- **Increased Gas Tax**, increase rate from .6 cents to .12 cents per gallon) **DEFEATED!**
- **Jet Fuel Tax** **DEFEATED!**
- **Parking Tax** – Double current rate – **WITHDRAWN**
- **Wheel Tax** – annual license fee increase (approximately. 150%) **DEFEATED!**
- **Use Tax** increase from .75 to 1% of price **DEFEATED!**
- **Hotel/Motel Accommodation Tax** **DEFEATED!**
- **Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages Tax** – 1.5% of purchase price **DEFEATED!**

Please feel free to **use any of this information in your newsletters** if you think your residents may find it of interest. If I can assist you with any County or Forest Preserve related matter, please call my office at **312-603-4932, 847-729-9300** or email commissionergoslin@cookcountygov.com.

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