

**Coalition For Responsible Tax Abatement  
Questionnaire for Candidates for South Bend Political Office, 2011**

1. Should the following principles be included in a tax abatement ordinance?

a. Improving Wages for Low-Income Workers, by

- Requirement of at least a Poverty Wage (\$8.80 per hour) for all employees
- Incentive to pay a Self-Sufficiency Wage (\$12.90 per hour)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

b. Affirmative Action, by

- Requirement of a written affirmative action plan to “take specific steps to encourage the hiring, promotion, and retention of qualified members of historically disadvantaged groups, such as minorities, women, and the disabled.”
- Requirement for construction contractors to follow the affirmative action standards for federal government projects (Executive Order 11246)

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

c. Investment in the “Donut Hole” Area of South Bend, by

- Incentive for investment by companies in the Economically Distressed Area (EDA), defined to be those census tracts in South Bend with the highest levels of poverty and unemployment and the lowest levels of income.
- 5-year abatement for the rehabilitation of single-family homes in the EDA.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

d. Linking Tax Subsidies Closely to Benefits to the Community, by

- Requiring basic benefits for any abatement: at least a Poverty Wage for all employees, affirmative action, and not misclassifying construction employees as independent contractors
- Extending the length of abatement only if important benefits are provided
- Limiting abatements for office, retail, hotel to appropriate areas of South Bend

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

e. Documentation and Compliance, by

- Requiring written documentation for all benefits claimed.
- Continuing current practice: authorizing the Council to end an abatement if claimed benefits are not provided, requiring repayment of abatement savings if a company ceases operations before the end of its abatement, and requiring the company to sign a Memorandum of Agreement that specifies the events that would entitle the Council to end the abatement or require repayment of taxes.

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

2. Bill 25-10 incorporates the above principles and is supported by the Coalition. The third substitute version, introduced in Nov 2010, is a comprehensive version that incorporates the best aspects of alternative bill 61-10. Do you support the approach to tax abatement of bill 25-10?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_