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True reform should be fair, predictable

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What Eric Zorn's column ("A fair slice of the tax pie," Commentary, Sept. 22) clearly demonstrates is the urgent need to change the confusing and frustrating property tax system here in Illinois, especially in Cook County. It is neither fair nor predictable. We need real reform by changing to a permanent assessment cap for all properties.

Our property tax system pits neighborhoods against each other and creates a huge barrier between residential properties and the businesses in our city and county. The philosophy is to divide and conquer! Keep everyone off kilter so they can't come together and support REFORM of the property tax system.

The solution is simple but it does take courage to implement it. Cap the assessment increases at 2 percent a year on all properties: homes, condos, stores, apartment buildings, etc. This is how we achieve a fair and predictable property tax system for all.

True reform means opposition from some that don't want the spending to be so transparent. But if the businesses and homeowners are on the same page -- fair and predictable for all -- the taxing bodies still get their piece of that "pie" but it will be shared among all property owners and we can keep track of the money and where it is going. This is a simple solution that takes courage but results in FAIR and PREDICTABLE property taxes for all.

-- Barbara Head, Chicago President, Tax Reform Action Coalition (TRAC) www.trac-il.org

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