



Zap the Caps Committee  
Records, 1996

Collection 59

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Sherrie Bowser

**Creator/Corporate Name:** "Zap the Caps" Committee

**Inclusive Dates:** 1996

**Physical Description:** 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)

**Language:** English

**Provenance:**

The "Zap the Caps" Committee records were donated by C.K. Gunsalus in June 2014.

**Access:**

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Historical Note:**

In August 1996, the Campaign County Board passed a motion for property tax caps to be placed on the November 5<sup>th</sup> ballot. Property tax caps limit taxing bodies to increasing aggregate property tax extensions by the rate of inflation or 5 percent, whichever is less.

"Zap the Caps" was a countywide coordinating committee to help groups in Champaign County organize opposition to the property tax caps. The purpose of the 12 member committee was to research and distribute information about the potentially damaging effects of tax caps on property tax dependent entities such as school districts, parks, and other public services. The committee also was responsible for bulk-buying campaign materials such as yard signs and brochures.

C.K. 'Tina' Gunsalus, president of the Urbana School Board, was chair of the coordinating committee. Other members include: Diane Baker (Gifford School Board), Paul A. Buenting (Gifford School Board), Nancy A. Delcomyn (Urbana Park Board), Susan Hanes Helle (Fisher P.I.E.), Paul Lewis (Unit 7 School Board), Janet Rosenberger (Urbana PTA Council), Margie Skirvin (Champaign PTA Council), Nicole Storch (Champaign School Board), Leslie Vermillion (Gifford School Board), and Ruby J. Weathersby (Rantoul City Schools Board).

The tax cap legislation passed by a 51% to 49% margin on November 5, 1996.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This collection contains the working documents of the committee, including correspondence, clippings, promotional materials (flyers, bumper stickers, and radio ads), reference materials regarding tax cap policies (locally and throughout Illinois), and notes from public talks.



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The collection also contains additional media including: 1 videocassette, 1 audiocassette, and 7 - 3.5" computer disks.

**Arrangement:**

The material is arranged alphabetically by subject.

**Subjects Terms:**

Community Organizations Records  
Gunsalus, C.K.  
Taxation

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

- Folder 1: Champaign County Board, 1996
- Folders 2-3: Clippings, 1996
- Folder 4: Correspondence, 1996
- Folder 5: Handouts Re: Urbana School Board Budget, 1996
- Folder 6: Media
  - Cassette 1: Committee to Zap the Caps, 3x:30 radio, 'Fixed Income,' 'Permanent,' and 'Sore Throat and No Ice Cream'
  - Diskette 1: Tax Caps ad (Quark) and fonts
  - Diskette 2: Tax Caps ad duplicate and EPS
  - Diskette 3: Tax Caps, September 1996
  - Diskette 4: Crowd.tif; school.tif; money.tif; money1.tif
  - Diskette 5: [No label]
  - Diskette 6: More tax caps, September 1997 [1996]
  - Diskette 7: Tax caps, September 1996
  - Videocassette 1: 'Tax Caps and Their Effects,' running time 27:06, October 9, 1996
- Folder 7: Notes/To-Do Items, 1996
- Folder 8: Promotional Materials (flyers, bumper stickers), 1996
- Folder 9: Promotional Materials, Originals, 1996
- Folder 10: Radio Ads, 1996
- Folders 11-12: Reference Materials, 1995-1996
- Folder 12: Requests for Bumper stickers and yard signs, 1996
- Folder 13: Talk Notes, 1996
- Folder 14: Telephone Numbers, 1996