

ATRA OPPOSITION TO COMPACTED PROPERTY VALUATION, APPEALS, BUDGETING & TAX CALENDAR

Under the current calendar, property values are distributed to all jurisdictions on February 10th in the year following the valuation and appeals cycle and are therefore considered the final equalized values. HB2516 greatly compacts the current 18-month calendar to just 7 months by overlaying the valuation and appeals calendar on top of the budget and tax calendar. Under HB2516, the values will be distributed to taxing entities on February 20th in the year in which property is valued and taxed and prior to the appeals process and any corrections as a result of mass errors. The diminished reliability and accuracy of property values will have many negative implications:

- The calculation of constitutional levy limits for counties, community colleges, cities and towns to fund their operational budgets.
- The calculation of TNT rates for all K-12 school districts by JLBC on or before February 15th for use in calculating state aid to schools must be completed on or before February 15th.
- Counties, community college districts, cities, towns and school districts are prohibited from increasing their primary taxes unless they publish a TNT notice and hold a public hearing that details the amount of the tax increase.

Only locally assessed property moves to the 7-month compacted calendar, whereas centrally valued property remains on the current 18-month calendar.

Whatever benefits might be achieved through using a more updated (and usually higher) property valuation are dramatically offset by the damage done to a state and local budgeting process that has been developed and fine-tuned over the last several decades.