



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of  
Local Government Finance

**For Immediate Release**

**Monday, August 10, 2009**

## **Department initiates county assessor removal process**

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 10, 2009) – After a review of the assessment work in LaPorte County, the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) today took action that could lead to the removal of LaPorte County Assessor Carol McDaniel from office.

Legislation passed in 2008 added a provision that authorizes the Department to initiate the process to allow county officials to remove an assessor if assessment work is not being properly conducted. This is the first time the DLGF has used this new authority.

City of LaPorte Mayor Kathy Chroback, Clerk-Treasurer Teresa Ludlow, the LaPorte City Council, and County Commissioner Mike Bohacek all requested the DLGF to initiate this process.

“The legislature gave us this authority to help ensure accountability in the assessor’s office,” DLGF Commissioner Tim Rushenberg said. “The lack of oversight and mismanagement our review found is concerning.”

Mishandled cash, unsubstantiated lowering of certain assessed values, failure to comply with aspects of a DLGF-ordered reassessment and a demonstrated lack of knowledge regarding assessment principles and concepts were found during the DLGF’s review of the assessment work.

The DLGF informed the County Assessor, LaPorte’s Michigan Township Assessor, and the LaPorte County Council President of the review earlier today. According to law, the County Council President must provide this information to the county commissioners, who may then adopt an ordinance regarding McDaniel’s future. If the county commissioners adopt an ordinance, the prosecutor must file a case in the County Circuit Court.

“Accurate assessments are the foundation of a uniform and equitable property tax system,” Commissioner Rushenberg said. “This starts with the county assessor.”

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