

WCC Supports Tax Abatement Reform

The Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati has held a series of public discussions on the topic of neighborhood development and housing, and has heard clearly from our members and community partners that the City's tax abatement strategy needs to be changed. With the guidance of our Civic Engagement team, the WCC Board has drafted a position statement in line with our mission and vision. This was sent to City policy makers, members of the Port Authority, and the leadership of Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber. Here are the key position points adopted by WCC:

WCC believes that tax abatements offered by the City of Cincinnati and the Port Authority must:

- fairly compensate Cincinnati Public Schools for lost tax revenue;
- collect funds adequate to support City functions as approved by the voters; and
- not place unfair tax burdens on unabated homeowners who end up covering the costs for private property owners and developers receiving abatements.

Additionally, future residential abatements should be granted only in lower income neighborhoods with a clear need for development incentives. Future commercial abatement recipients should report annually on the success of job creation and other goals that supported their tax abatement request. The City and Port Authority should provide transparency through appropriate notification, advance disclosure, and public hearings, and should proactively seek input from the Cincinnati Board of Education, residents, and impacted communities before tax abatements are approved.

President, Woman's City Club