

November 19, 2015



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TOP NEWS

Property tax elimination bill may get Senate vote



Newtown Patch

A bill that would eliminate property taxes may be considered in the Pennsylvania state Senate soon, Senate President Pro Tempore Joe Scarnati told the Associated Press. The legislation, called the Taxpayer Relief Act, would completely eliminate \$14 billion in school property taxes. The revenue would be replaced with higher state sales and income taxes. [READ MORE](#)

IAAO NEWS AND INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE [IAAO BLOG](#).

AROUND THE INDUSTRY

Resolution up to Ikea, property assessor, state board



The Commercial Appeal

Shelby County Mayor Mark Luttrell indicated that neither he nor the EDGE board should engage in a tax issue that is delaying and threatening Ikea's plans to build one of its popular modern-furniture stores in Memphis. "It is a process where we have to be very careful we don't interfere in the established procedures by law," Luttrell said. [READ MORE](#)

Morristown Medical Center tax ruling ripples through garden state



NJ Spotlight

Morristown Medical Center's agreement to pay property taxes in the wake of a court ruling that some aspects of its operations are for-profit is reverberating throughout the Garden State, as towns ponder collecting taxes from their own local hospitals. Meanwhile, other New Jersey hospitals — as well as some elected officials — are already working to head off efforts to apply the Morristown tax decision statewide. [READ MORE](#)

City tax rate drops after revaluation



Seacoast Online

The state Department of Revenue approved a city tax rate of \$16.79 per \$1,000 of valuation for fiscal year 2016, according to City Manager John Bohenko. Bohenko estimated in June when the City Council voted to approve the \$101 million 2016 fiscal year city budget that the tax rate would be \$18.48 per \$1,000 of property valuation. But the tax rate came in \$1.70 less because of the recently completed city-wide revaluation, which raised the value of most properties in the city. [READ MORE](#)

Nigeria: Controversy trails proposed Abuja Property Tax



All Africa

From the 70s till date, about eighty percent of annual revenue of the three tiers of government is derivable on proceeds made from the sale of crude and other petroleum products. With the dwindling price of oil in the international market, the federal government is urgently seeking for alternative means of revenue generation which can be sourced from the extractive industry, tourism as well as taxation. [READ MORE](#)

Home appraisal 'adjustments' too often a matter of opinion



The Seattle Times

Whether you're a homebuyer, seller or looking to refinance, you probably know the crucial importance of appraisals: They can limit the amount of mortgage money you're allowed to borrow, delay your closing or even totally mess up what you thought was a done deal. According to survey research provided by the National Association of Realtors, more than one out of five home real-estate contracts gets delayed before closing because of disagreements or problems connected with the appraisal. [READ MORE](#)

Property assessments down dramatically in revaluation update



The Berlin Daily Sun

Residential and commercial property assessments have dropped dramatically in the city's new revaluation update. The news was not totally unexpected. City officials warned earlier this year that residential property valuations would decrease significantly based on the N.H. Department of Revenue Administration figures showing an overall equalization ratio of 142 percent — meaning assessed values were 42 percent higher than market values. In other words, properties were selling at prices 42 percent less than assessed values. [READ MORE](#)

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Land of the free, home of the high cost of living — Are property tax exemptions for veterans enough?



Bloomberg BNA

Considering that there are many complex factors that influence homelessness, including access to affordable housing and supportable income, if a disabled veteran already owns a home or can afford to buy a home, the need for legislative change to provide more property tax assistance is ever apparent. According to the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, 12 percent of the homeless adult population in this country are veterans, 68 percent of homeless vets live in large cities, and 32 percent reside in suburban or rural areas. [READ MORE](#)

Nova Scotia property assessment cap changes needed, says new UNSM head



CBC News

The new president of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities says the cap on property tax assessments has created inequality around the province and needs to be addressed. Claire Detheridge, a long-serving member of Cape Breton Regional Council, was named president of the municipal advocacy group recently. The original intent of the cap was to protect older properties in desirable areas, such as those with water frontage, from spikes in assessments caused by a high sale price, new construction or renovation nearby. [READ MORE](#)

Study: Solar panels raise home values



National Mortgage Professional

An Appraisal Institute member specializing in the valuation of green homes has produced a study released by the U.S.

Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory that found homes with host-owned solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems are sold at a premium compared to homes without PV systems. [READ MORE](#)

Atlantic City casino-tax bills could become law



Press of Atlantic City

Five bills that some lawmakers say will stabilize Atlantic City's chaotic finances will become law if Gov. Chris Christie doesn't intervene. Among them is a controversial plan to allow casinos to make fixed annual payments instead of highly variable property-tax payments. Proponents say that bill will fix an Atlantic City property-tax system beset by instability. [READ MORE](#)

Empty buildings and government spending



Pagosa Daily Post

The City Market Shopping Center (also known as the Country Center) lost a valued anchor tenant this past year: the ALCO store. What readers might not know is that many of the commercial spaces in the shopping center — including the now-vacant ALCO space — are owned, not by City Market, but by a company named 4M LLC. According to the information included in the BOCC's packet for the regular meeting, the ALCO store had been responsible for paying their own property taxes, even though the company did not own the property. [READ MORE](#)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

How leaders can avoid being the naked king



By Candice Gottlieb-Clark



Brian was a proud leader. He had driven his organization forward with growth and innovation and developed a team of high-performing individuals. Yet as Brian exuberantly pushed toward greater investor returns and new opportunities, he simultaneously generated friction among his team. Unbeknownst to Brian, the team felt restrained, held back and at times disengaged. Why didn't Brian know? Brian was a naked king. [READ MORE](#)

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Please send any comments about this email to membership@iaao.org





The IAAO Blog—Giving you all the latest info about IAAO in one place.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Assessing Info - 11-19-15



2015 ELECTION NOW OPEN



The 2015 IAAO election is now open. Both paper and electronic ballots were sent to all members. See the [IAAO website](#) for more information on candidates and a proposed constitutional amendment. We encourage you to exercise your right to vote. (And don't wait too long, the election closes November 30.)

IAAO SURVEY—WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

So that IAAO can better serve you and fulfill your membership needs, the association has hired the consulting firm of McKinley Advisors in Washington, D.C. to develop and send electronically two surveys to the membership. You may be selected to participate. The subject line for these emails will be: IAAO Survey—Invitation to Participate. The survey will be emailed to the membership on December 1.

One-half of the IAAO membership will receive a Member Needs Assessment Survey of approximately 25 multiple choice questions. And one-half of the members who joined IAAO in 2015 will receive a New Member Survey also with approximately 25 multiple choice questions. Both surveys must be completed by December 17, 2015. This will be your opportunity to let IAAO know how you feel about your membership and how the association can better serve you, so please participate in the survey process if you receive the invitation.

Once the data has been collected, the results will be shared with the membership during the spring of 2016. Questions regarding the surveys can be sent to parrish@iaao.org. Thank you in advance for your participation!

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS: ASSESSMENT PRACTICES: SELF-EVALUATION GUIDE

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ABOUT ME



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CONFERENCE PHOTOS AVAILABLE

Photos from #IAAO2015 are now available. Visit the [website](#) and click on "Buy Images" to access photos. You'll be able to enjoy great moments again (like finding out IAAO Executive Director Ron Worth is Superman)!

CONFERENCE CE CREDITS

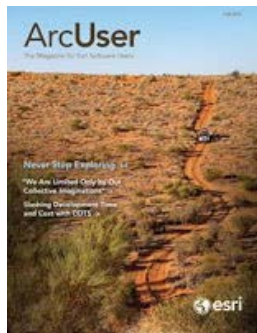
If you would like to view your CE credits earned at the 2015 conference on our website, get the details [here](#).

NEW PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES

The IAAO Library contains thousands of resources for assessment professionals and we're constantly adding more! Listed below are a couple examples of the latest and greatest. And make sure to check out the [complete list](#) of our newest additions.



Land use and municipal budgets: the fiscal connection



Verifying valuation rates: data enrichment supports better appraisals

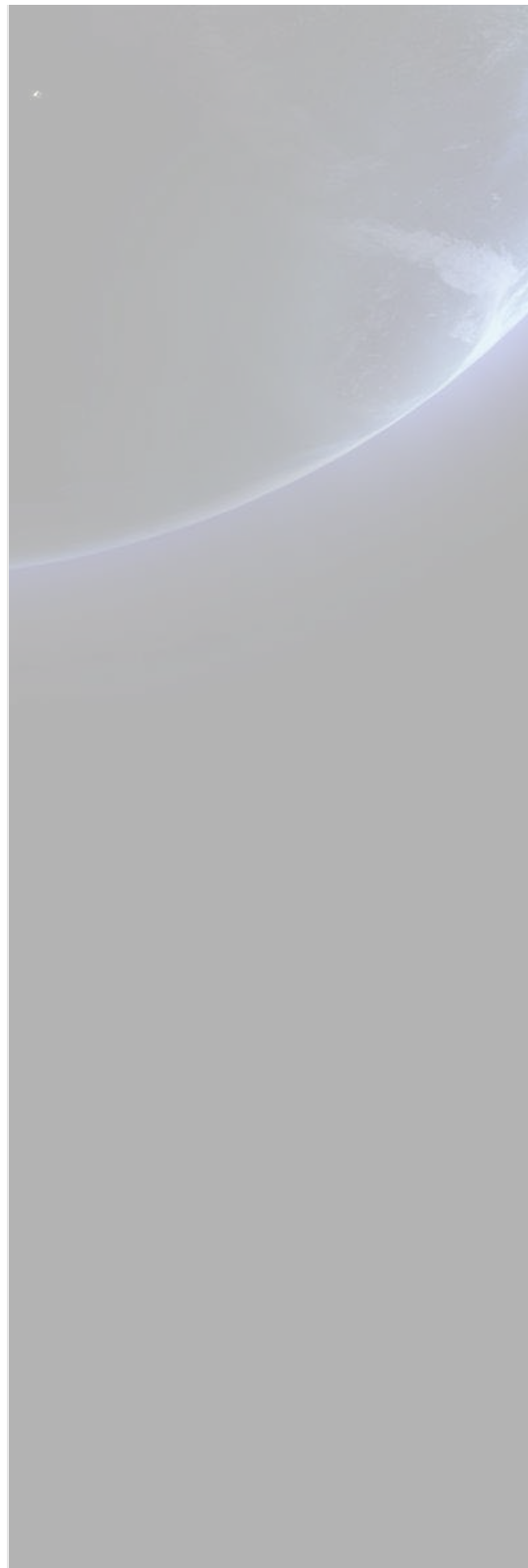
Questions or requests? [Email us](#).



Too many resumes and not enough time? IAAO can help!

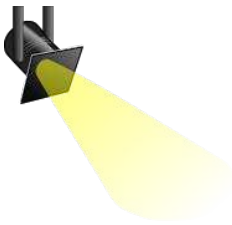
[Click here to get started](#)

FEEDBACK WANTED





Help us improve the benefits and services we offer to members. [Tell us](#) about your membership experience in IAAO. We want to hear from you!



CHAPTER AND AFFILIATE SPOTLIGHT

In order to increase awareness about the Chapters and Affiliates that are so important to the success of IAAO, we are continuing to include links to information about some of IAAO's Chapters and Affiliates. If your area is interested in starting a new Chapter or Affiliate, please email [Hayley Rees](#).

- [Russian Society of Appraisers](#)
- [Saskatchewan Assessment Appraisers' Association](#)
- [South Carolina Association of Assessment Officials](#)
- [South Dakota Association of Assessing Officers](#)



FAIR & EQUITABLE NOVEMBER DIGITAL EDITION AVAILABLE NOW!

PILOT OFFERINGS

Attend the pilot offerings of these new courses and workshops and be one of the first to experience the improved educational opportunities that IAAO has to offer. Once the pilot classes have been conducted and evaluated these courses and workshops will be made available for scheduling in your continuing education program. [Read more...](#)

36TH ANNUAL LEGAL SEMINAR

December 10–11, 2015

**Hyatt Regency
Boston, MA**



To check out a preview of the sessions for this year's seminar, and to find out how to register, visit our [2015 Legal Seminar blog page](#).

UPCOMING IAAO SEMINARS IN BANGKOK

Course 300—*Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal*

January 20–24, 2016

Course 331—*Mass Appraisal Practices and Procedures*

January 27–31, 2016

IAAO, in conjunction with the Thai Appraisal Foundation and the Thai Real Estate Business School, will be presenting two courses on mass appraisal in January 2016 at the Arnoma Hotel in Bangkok. [Click here](#) for more information and to register.

SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS BOOST HOME VALUES, SAYS APPRAISAL INSTITUTE MEMBER-LED STUDY

2016 GIS/CAMA TECHNOLOGIES CONFERENCE

February 22–25, 2016

Hyatt Regency



Savannah, GA

To find out all the details, take a look at our [2016 GIS/CAMA blog page](#).

THE APPRAISAL FOUNDATION BRINGS STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE TO APPRAISAL SOFTWARE PROGRAMS



The Appraisal Standards Board (ASB) has issued *The Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice (USPAP) Q&A's*.

Posted by IAAO at 8:07 AM



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