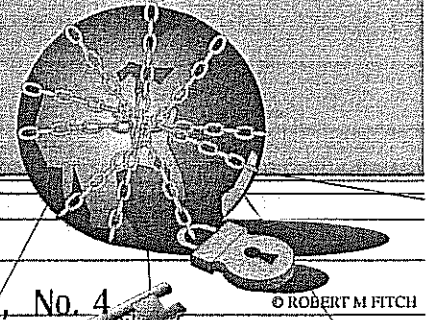


# GROUND SWELL

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## NCSL LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT HELD IN CHICAGO AUGUST 6-9, 2012

### The National Conference of State Legislatures program in Chicago was "Build Strong States."

Report by Al Katzenberger, St. Louis, MO

Public Revenue Education Council experienced one good thing after another in Chicago.

The McCormick Center is huge, composed of four buildings and NCSL Exhibit Hall was in McCormick West. The building is excellently designed with a parking garage and easy access for loading and unloading to the exhibit floor. Our booth was 707, three booths from the main entrance. We stood out with a gold apron on our display table. We also had the GIS map Grinch, Connecticut showing land values that was given to us by Bill Batt. Those who stopped by the booth also took interest in our "Three Pan Economic Justice Scale." Chuck Metalitz put dirt and a rock in one pan to represent LAND, two small plastic toy men working for LABOR and some small tools to represent CAPITAL. We explained that the "chains" on each pan represented money and the three crossbars represented the banks, Wall Street and the Federal Reserve Bank. When we told the public official they were the straight rod holding everything in balance they smiled. They quickly understood that a crooked rod would represent crooked politicians.

Chicago being so close to Missouri we expected to see people from Missouri but were told Missouri officials are not allowed to travel out of state at government expense. There are more and more new faces at the NCSL summit because of term limits.

The hard right folks were well represented at the conference. We learned that there are over 30,000 manufactures of guns, gun parts, gun equipment and supplies. Their booths were richly supplied with give aways and DVDs.

There was one fellow from Pennsylvania who claimed he wrote the Sales Tax Law to Tax All Sales and Services in Pennsylvania but it was defeated by people who wanted to tax real estate. We were nice to him and gave him a lot of samples of our Georgist literature. He said land is a commodity and we were trying to steal his private property.

It seemed that half of the booths were related to Health Care in one form or another. They all claim they were reducing cost and improving services. We did not know if we should believe them or thank President Obama.

Canada, Australia and Nigeria were well represented. Other nations were represented but very few from Spanish speaking countries. We had Spanish literature displayed but very little was given out at this legislative summit.

We need Georgists to present an educational workshop at the next NCSL Summit in Atlanta, GA. We need to sponsor Mayor Steve Reed and others to present a workshop on LVT to those attending the NCSL annual meetings. PREC can not carry the ball alone at this very important annual conference. Please wake up, Georgists. We need to educate these State policy makers.

Next PREC will be at the second booth from the main entrance. Our booth selection number was 39 out of over 300 other exhibitors.

The Chicago Henry George School was very helpful thanks to Chuck Metalitz, Irene Marmi and Bob Jene. They helped PREC's Al Katzenberger and Don Killoren pass out Georgist literature and explain the importance of LVT to everyone who stopped by.

Don Killoren and Al Katzenberger stopped by the Haymarket Monument in the Haymarket area and saw about a dozen plaques on the base of the monument but none presented by a Georgist organization. Chuck Metalitz was asked to see out how a Georgist plaque could be added to the Haymarket Monument.

The Chicago NCSL was expensive for PREC and we would appreciate any financial support you can send to Public Revenue Education Council at 6228 Pershing Ave., St. Louis, MO 63130.

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### Thoughts on the NCSL Conference

by Don Killoren, St. Louis, MO

Talking with Legislators and other participating vendors and visitors it became obvious that we Georgists have an opportunity now to sell Land Value Taxation (or Charges) by showing how much of voters' dollars spent on every retail item, gasoline, rent, hotel bill, and education goes to pay for the cost of land.

We need research to show precisely what part of every Gross Domestic Product dollar is paid to LAND SPECULATION interests. If people understood that rising home values are NOT in their best interests they would demand a change in their local property taxation systems. Presently we talk in generalities about the advantages of our ideas. We need hard facts showing that out of every dollar spent X number of pennies goes to a totally non-productive function (land speculation).

When they receive this kind of information voters will make new demands of the legislators who are now yawning at our message (continued on page 15)