

...Andrea Neal in today's *Indianapolis Star*, [writing about the TEA party protests](#) that will be taking place all across Indiana says

In honor of the annual agony we call Tax Day, citizens will gather across Indiana today to protest taxes. On the one hand, Tax Day Tea Party is something of a publicity stunt with groups planning to throw tea bags into rivers, prompting environmental concerns about depletion of oxygen in the water and potential damage to fish. On the other hand, this is a real grass-roots effort, promoted almost entirely online by conservative and tax-focused organizations using networks like Facebook.

Protests are scheduled at different times of day in Anderson, Bloomington, Columbus, Elkhart, Evansville, Jasper, Lafayette, Lawrenceburg, South Bend, Terre Haute, Valparaiso, Warsaw, Winamac and in Indianapolis on the south lawn of the Statehouse at 4:30 p.m.

Citing [the recent NTU "Taxpayer's Friend" ratings](#) , she writes

Our representatives in Congress are addicted to spending and earmarks and show no signs of changing. In 2008, 48 lawmakers received an "A" in the National Taxpayers Union 30th annual rating of Congress. A record high 267 senators and representatives got Fs. The scorecard examined every vote affecting tax, spending and regulatory issues. In Indiana, As went to Mike Pence and Dan Burton and Fs to Pete Visclosky, Joe Donnelly, Andre Carson, Brad Ellsworth, Baron Hill and Evan Bayh.

Indiana is no longer a low-tax state. The Tax Foundation ranks us 28th in overall tax burden -- property, income, sales etc. -- compared to a 41st place ranking as recently as 1983. We are 23rd in the amount homeowners pay for property taxes as a percentage of home value. Our sales tax at 7 percent is close to the nation's highest. We've been on a slippery slope of tax hikes that have allowed us to invest in education and services but could ultimately damage our business and employment climate.

Is a Tea Party in order? Absolutely. "When we speak to our leaders, they do not listen," Kata complains. Maybe they will listen if thousands of Hoosiers show up on courthouse steps, at the Statehouse or on riverbanks with loud voices, protest signs and tea bags.

As previously [announced](#) , Congressman Pence will be in his [hometown of Columbus](#) to participate in the TEA party taking place at Donner Park.

Tax Day, aka TEA Party Day, has arrived...

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Disenchanted taxpayers will be out in force in nationwide, including Columbus, today for symbolic tea parties to protest high government spending.