

E-file Your Property Taxes - One Gallon of Milk at a Time.

What if you could shop around for the best property tax deal? It is entirely possible, because nowadays, money is just data.

Basically, there are two types of taxes you pay: Asset taxes on what you own (e.g., property, income, savings) and expenditure taxes (e.g., sales taxes, fees) on what you spend. Let's use existing technology and market competition to create a universal payment method for all taxes that will create a progressive, broad based plan for true tax reform, and not just a another gimmicky tax swap. All you have to do to make this work is just buy a gallon of milk.

Nowadays, when you stroll up to the checkout counter at your local retailer with your gallon of milk, the first thing the clerk asks you is, "Do you have your Bonus/Advantage/MVP/Extracare/ and-so-forth-and-so-on Discount Card?"

At the bottom of the cash register receipt, you might then find the following:

Bonus/Advantage/MVP/Extracare/and-so-forth-and-so-on Discount Card Savings:	\$0.37
Total Savings This Year:	\$317.56

Under the proposed system, when you stroll up to that same checkout counter with your gallon of milk, the clerk will ask you two new questions. Instead of asking for your Bonus/Advantage/MVP/Extracare/ and-so-forth-and-so-on Discount Card, the first question will be, "Do you have your Palmetto Taxpayer's U-Keep-It Card?" The second question will then be, "Would you like those U-Keep-It Card cost savings applied to pay your property taxes/sales taxes/federal income taxes/state income taxes/Social Security taxes/Medicare taxes/Medicaid taxes/vehicle registration taxes/usage fees/hunting & fishing licenses/ and all other manner of taxes and government fees?"

At the bottom of the cash register receipt, you will then find the following:

Palmetto Taxpayer's U-Keep-It Card Tax Savings:	\$0.37
Your Total Tax Savings This Year:	\$317.56

In other words, you would get to keep those discount card savings to lower your tax bill. Furthermore, since everyone, poor or wealthy, gets the exactly same cash benefit from that gallon of milk, this tax reduction plan is progressive. Low income consumers would receive a tax benefit that represents a greater percentage of their income.

But wait! There's more.....much, much more! Businesses use all manner of incentives to save you money in order to attract your business. These include manufacturer's coupons, double coupons, triple coupons, rebates, discounts, cash back offers, 2-for-1, etc. that all hold the potential to offer taxpayers real cost savings on all manner of taxes and government fees. In other words, you could e-file you taxes at your local retailer every time you buy a gallon of milk, a pound of steak, a new fishing pole, a pair of pants, a new dress, a computer, an automobile, and the list goes on and on. The very best part of this whole deal is that you could shop around for the best bargain on that gallon of milk and the very best tax deal!

So, attention coupon clippers and bargain shoppers! With the Palmetto Taxpayer's U-Keep-It Card, you get "Everyday Lower Taxes."

*Jim Kappler resides in Anderson and may be contacted at [centristview@yahoo.com](mailto:centristview@yahoo.com).*