

How Can I Help? Get Involved!



There are a number of important ways that you can help to have the PCTA School Property Tax Elimination Plan enacted to abolish school property taxes in Pennsylvania.

SUBSCRIBE TO FREE PTCC E-MAIL UPDATES. The PTCC updates have the latest news on property tax issues, our efforts to eliminate the school property tax, and Action Items that you can use to help in the fight. There is no cost and your e-mail address will always remain confidential. If you haven't done so, please subscribe NOW! (pataxpayers@gmail.com).

SPREAD THE WORD! This is very important. Grassroots initiatives such as ours depend on the voices of as many concerned taxpayers as possible. Be a champion for education finance reform and tell everyone you know about the School Property Tax Elimination Act, give them a copy of the PCTA Plan Quick Facts single page handout, show them the Plan's personal calculator to demonstrate the SPTEA's effect on their total tax bill, and let them know that they CAN make a difference if they get involved. Ask them to join the effort by visiting the PTCC website to learn about the PCTA Plan. Encourage them to subscribe to the PTCC e-mail updates list to keep abreast of our efforts and to read suggestions on how they can help.

CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS. Let your Pennsylvania Representative and Senator respectfully know what you expect from them regarding school property tax elimination and tell your friends to contact them, too. Whether by phone, mail, or e-mail, making your wishes known to them is important. Don't be afraid to contact them frequently and try to develop a good relationship with them. Contact information for your elected officials is available on the PTCC website.

CIRCULATE A MULTI-SIGNATURE PETITION OR SIGN A PERSONAL PETITION. A PCTA petition supporting the School Property Tax Elimination Plan can be used as a powerful tool to help enactment of this legislation. Please consider circulating this petition anywhere people gather to collect as many signatures as possible. A personal petition can be used to show your support to lawmakers. Download the petitions and make copies for your friends, neighbors, and family or save and distribute the petition files to everyone in your Pennsylvania e-mail address book. You can download the petitions as PDF files on the PTCC website.

DISTRIBUTE PTCC TEAR-OFF POSTERS. These small tear-off posters are ideal for grocery store bulletin boards, beauty and barber shops, community centers - anywhere that people gather. Print a few, cut through the vertical dotted lines, and distribute them wherever you go! Download the poster on the PTCC website.

START A TAXPAYER ADVOCACY GROUP. Local organizations that are working for property tax reform have sprung up across the state during the past few years and have joined our efforts by becoming member groups in our statewide organization, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayer Associations (PCTA). This is much easier than you might imagine and such groups can be a very potent force in helping to have property tax elimination legislation enacted. PCTA members are willing and eager to help you form a taxpayer group in your area, so if you need advice or assistance in starting such a group, please contact us at pataxpayers@gmail.com. The list of PCTA member groups is available on the PTCC website.

WRITE A NEWSPAPER OP-ED OR LETTER TO THE EDITOR. This is a great way to inform your community about the PCTA School Property Tax Elimination Plan, to raise awareness about this legislation, and to gain new supporters. Below are a few guidelines for writing a letter or an Op-Ed, courtesy of Dianne Berlin of CasinoFreePA.

- Become knowledgeable about the issue before you start. Information about the PCTA Plan is available here. Be sure to check the "FAQs" and "Why the PCTA Plan?" areas of the PTCC website for more information.
- Check each newspaper for their letter to the editor guidelines. Follow them.
- If your letter is in response to a recent article in that paper, be sure to mention the name and date of the article.
- Keep your letter brief, concise, and accurate. Letters of fewer than 200 words seem to be more readily published and read; Op-Ed pieces should be no more than 1500 words.
- Always sign your name, address, and phone number for verification and if done online, include your email address.
- If you are the spokesperson for an organization, it is appropriate for you to include a BRIEF statement of your organization's position related to the issue addressed.
- If your letter is not printed, review and try to improve. Do NOT give up trying to get published. Many people write but the papers do have limited space.
- If you wish, you can send additional materials supportive of your position with your letter but do not send a large amount. You want to raise the editor's interest.
- If sent by e-mail, you could include the URLs of sites which support your position or may be of interest, such as the PTCC website. You may get the attention of the editor who may write an editorial on the issue.
- Lists of newspapers can be found at <http://usnpl.com> and at <http://www.newspapers.com>

Please get involved and help to eliminate school property taxes!

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