



07 September 2011

Dear Friends,

Since the Pennsylvania House of Representatives is in summer recess and won't return to session until September 26, there has little news to report on the property tax elimination issue.

However, in recent days the tempo has begun to pick up and I can pass along a few items for your information.

- On September 1, State Representative Jim Cox (R-129, Berks) issued a statement that the groundwork for school property tax elimination has been laid and indicated that legislation to accomplish this will be introduced shortly.

Representative Cox and his colleagues in the General Assembly who believe in this initiative are working to make this change happen and need the support of all taxpayers who care about Pennsylvania families and the education of their children. I'll have more on this in a moment.

- Randal Doaty, a long-time real estate broker, has written a short essay about how escalating property taxes are stealing home equity and resale value. It is a very revealing piece that has caused much discussion among taxpayers and legislators.

- On August 12, Lowman Henry of the Lincoln Radio Journal conducted an interview with me about the property tax problem and the PCTA School Property Tax Replacement Plan. This interview contains many pertinent facts and has received many positive reviews.

Links to all three of the items above – Rep. Cox's statement, Mr. Doaty's essay, and the LRJ interview - can be found in the right column of the PTCC website at www.ptcc.us. Please take the time to review them.

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In Representative Cox's message he states, "Because we have taken the first part of this year to lay the groundwork for the introduction of this important legislation, we are well prepared to take the next step forward when the bill is introduced. At that point, we will need your help to encourage legislators across Pennsylvania to get on board with the solution that will finally allow us to truly own our homes."

When the legislation is ready for introduction I'll send specific steps you can take to help. At the moment there is little for you to do but I have two suggestions for immediate action.

First, one of our biggest obstacles to enactment is the lack of taxpayer knowledge about this effort; with more taxpayer awareness we gain valuable support. If you

can, please write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper to inform homeowners of this initiative and be sure to include the PTCC Web address so people can find further information. If you wish, you can use the "Quick Facts" and "Ten Reasons" documents that are available on the PTCC website as source material for your letter.

Second, forward this email to everyone on your Pennsylvania contact list with a request that they become involved in the fight by reading the information on the PTCC website and subscribing to the email updates. Every voice is important!

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Speaking of support, the Pennsylvania Coalition of Taxpayer Associations (PCTA), our statewide umbrella organization, has grown to an amazing 64 member groups with more on the way! We have become a formidable coalition that is united in support of school property tax elimination and the Harrisburg lawmakers have taken notice of our growth.

The list of coalition groups is available on the PTCC website under the "About the PCTA" tab.

If you would consider starting a group in your area we would welcome your participation. It's easy to do and the PCTA members will help you get started. If you know of an existing group in your area that might be willing to join the effort, please let us know. In either case, simply send an email to pataxpayers@gmail.com and we'll respond promptly.

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For those of you who would like to learn more about the PCTA's effort, I'll be speaking about the plan in three areas during the coming weeks. If you live near one of the areas listed below, please attend to show your support.

September 21, 7:00 PM
State Representative Rick Saccone
Town Hall Meeting
Gill Hall Volunteer Fire Company
1228 Gill Hall Road
Jefferson Hills, PA (Allegheny County)

September 22, 6:30 PM
Pennsylvania TEA Party
Adams Ridge Clubhouse
100 Adams Ridge Blvd.
Mars, PA (Butler County)

October 7, 7:00 PM
Lehigh Valley TEA Party
Chrin Community Center
4100 Greenpond Road
Palmer, PA (Northampton County)

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I have just one more important request today. When you change email addresses please send a short note to the PTCC email address with your old and new addresses. Every update we lose a few subscribers who forget to do this and we need to keep everyone on board!

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That's it for today, but I'll leave you with this final thought: The PCTA Plan to replace the property tax is so equitable and so simple that it is almost impossible to understand why some legislators oppose the idea. It is our job as grassroots activists to show them the wisdom of the plan and to demand that they enact this legislation for the benefit of Pennsylvania homeowners and schoolchildren.

Keep fighting the good fight, everyone, and thank you for all of your support.

David Baldinger
PTCC Administrator

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