

JERRY KNOWLES, MEMBER

ROOM 402 IRVIS OFFICE BUILDING
PO BOX 202124
HARRISBURG PA 17120-2124
PHONE: (717) 787-9029
FAX: (717) 783-3899

COMMITTEES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CHILDREN AND YOUTH
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

E-MAIL: JKNOWLES@PAHOUSEGOP.COM



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

DISTRICT OFFICES

237 WEST BROAD STREET
TAMAQUA PA 18252-1818
PHONE: (570) 668-1240
FAX: (570) 952-3374

209 N. WARREN STREET
PO BOX 128
ORWIGSBURG PA 17961-0128
PHONE: (570) 366-2735
FAX: (570) 366-2706

61 N. THIRD STREET
HAMBURG, PA 19526-1501
610-562-3411
FAX 610-562-6895

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Jerry Knowles *JK*
124th Legislative District

DATE: December 30, 2010

SUBJECT: Draft Legislation - **Property Tax Relief**

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation of great importance to Pennsylvania citizens, and most importantly, Pennsylvania's senior citizens. For years, the General Assembly has focused on various avenues to reach property tax relief. Most recently, Act 1 was signed into law. While this legislation was a step in the right direction, it falls well short of delivering relief to the taxpaying citizens of this Commonwealth most deserving of the relief – fixed income senior citizens.

My legislation aims to correct this shortcoming. It amends Title 72 (Taxation and Fiscal Affairs) to establish the Property Tax Assistance Program. In this program, any eligible claimant may submit their school property tax bill to the Department of Revenue. If the Department determines that the claimant is eligible for the program, the Department shall then pay the claimant's property tax bill. A claimant is defined as any senior citizen over the age of 65 with annual household income of not more than \$40,000. The property tax payments for older Pennsylvanians will be paid from monies currently dedicated to the Property Tax/Rent Rebate program, as well as from the Property Tax Relief Fund, using revenue generated from expanded gaming.

We, in the Legislature, cannot lose sight of the citizens who most need property tax relief. There are far too many senior citizens in this Commonwealth who have worked all their life to achieve the American dream of owning property and their own home, only to have this dream taken away due to ever-increasing property tax burdens. My legislation delivers relief to those citizens with the greatest need, by eliminating their property taxes completely.

Please join me in eliminating property taxes for fixed income senior citizens. If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact my office at 787-9029, or email Tracy Baker – tbaker@pahousegop.com.

JK/tb