

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the House of Representatives

FROM: Representative John Galloway

DATE: April 14, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Legislation: The Citizens Constitutional Convention on Property Taxes Act

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation establishing ‘The Citizens Constitutional Convention on Property Taxes Act’.

Like many other states, Pennsylvania faces an unprecedented fiscal challenge that calls for bold, creative solutions. Property tax relief remains one of the top concerns of Pennsylvania homeowners, and residents are demanding change. We must act now to adopt real reform that meets this crisis head-on. I believe the way to do this is to give Commonwealth citizens a say in how to better address this issue.

My legislation permits a limited constitutional convention on property taxes. If adopted, a referendum would go before Pennsylvania voters, asking if a convention should take place. If passed, convention delegates would be tasked with developing three proposals to reduce or eliminate property taxes. Public officials and lobbyists cannot be delegates under this bill. All three proposals would appear on the ballot at the general election following the convention in the form of constitutional amendments to allow the electorate to vote to approve one of the proposals. The proposal with the most votes would be adopted for the Commonwealth. To carry out the provisions of this bill, \$20 million dollars from the non-lapsing leadership accounts of the General Assembly, in four equal contributions by the majority and minority caucuses of the Senate and the House of Representatives would be used.

If you would like to join me in co-sponsoring this important legislation, please contact Juliann Wesloskie in my office at (717) 787-1292 or JWeslosk@pahouse.net.