

JIM COX, MEMBER
129TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

HARRISBURG OFFICE:

155A EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202129
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2129
PHONE: (717) 772-2435
FAX: (717) 260-6516

DISTRICT OFFICE:

2909 WINDMILL ROAD, SUITE 7
SINKING SPRING, PA 19608-1681
PHONE: (610) 670-0139
FAX: (610) 927-3584

TOLL FREE: (866) 538-2938

E-MAIL: JIMCox@REPJIMCOX.COM

WEBSITE: WWW.REPJIMCOX.COM



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

EDUCATION
FINANCE
LABOR RELATIONS
REPUBLICAN POLICY
STATE GOVERNMENT

APPOINTMENTS

PROPERTY TAX REFORM TASK FORCE,
CHAIR

CAUCUSES & COALITIONS

ANTI-GAMBLING COALITION
FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
PRO-LIFE CAUCUS
SCHOOL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF CAUCUS
VETERAN'S CAUCUS

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Jim Cox

DATE: October 5, 2011

RE: **Property Tax Replacement Legislation**

For years, finding a funding source to replace school property taxes has been a matter of discussion in the General Assembly. For those of you who believe that the replacement of school property taxes is not only possible, but necessary, I invite you to join with me to be part of an historic approach to drafting legislation. We will begin with the premise that we CAN replace school property taxes with a broader-based revenue source such as an expanded sales tax which could include many goods and services which are currently exempt. Other sources of revenue may also be considered such as an increase in the personal income tax, local sales tax and/or an increased share of gambling revenues.

Because the distribution of funding to our local schools has been a divisive issue during property tax discussions, this legislation will contain a baseline for distribution, based initially on ADM (Average Daily Membership) times Equilized Mills. Other components that are likely to become part of our discussion include socio-economic factors such as poverty, disabilities and language barriers.

The people of Pennsylvania have waited patiently for us to craft an equitable solution to the school funding dilemma. The bill I will be introducing shortly will be a starting point for this discussion and a bill that I hope will come to include the ideas of all those interested in providing true property ownership to all Pennsylvanians.

If you believe school property taxes have become an unbearable burden on Pennsylvania's property owners and that the time to act is NOW, please contact Jen Sellers at 772-2435 or jeseller@pahousegop.com to co-sponsor this legislation.