

ATTENTION: SENIOR PROPERTY OWNERS

School Property Tax Freeze Information

The (PSERS) Public School Employees Retirement System was PROJECTED to increase by about 8% a year. If their retirement fund does not increase in value by 8% increase, taxpayers make up the difference through increased school property taxes. Legislators prefer to use the word PROJECTION for what amounts to a "guarantee."

The PSERS fund did not increase in value by 8% in a few years, since being set up in 2001. So taxpayers must make up the difference. This applies to the entire state of Pennsylvania.

School property taxes will be 30% to 50% higher in 2012 than the amount you paid in August 2009, unless Legislators enact a senior tax freeze! It's up to all of us to make them act!

Legislators have reported that the PROJECTED ("guaranteed") PSERS increase cannot legally be reversed for current school system employees. Retirement system changes are being discussed but will only affect new PSERS employees hired after 2009. Legislators are willing to discuss a property tax freeze for seniors. Four bills, with multiple cosponsors are waiting for some action. The bills are:

SB 51 - Senior Citizens School Real Property Tax Freeze Act. (14 sponsors)

SB 426 - Senior Citizens Property Tax Freeze Act. (21 sponsors)

HB 24 - Senior Citizens Property Tax Increase Freeze Act (11 sponsors)

HB 873 - Senior Citizens Property Tax Freeze Act (39 sponsors).

See bill details at <http://www.house.state.pa.us/>

Details of the bills vary but all propose a tax freeze for seniors. During the legislative process bills are amended so the specifics now are less important than the fact that four bills exist with multiple cosponsors.

A tax exemption, because of age, disability, infirmity or poverty is permitted in the Pennsylvania constitution. If you support the tax freeze for seniors, and have not yet called your legislators, **CALL THEM!** They need to hear from you so they can record your opinion and the fact that you reside in their legislative district.

Who to call:

Your local legislators and phone numbers are:

Representative Watson (215) 674 0500

Representative O'Neill (215) 441 2624

Representative Quinn (215) 489 2126

Senator Greenleaf (215) 657 7700

Senator McIlhinney (800) 728 8600

Senator Tomlinson (215) 945 2800

Senator Mensch (215) 529 1215

What to tell them. . .

Assuming you support the tax freeze. . . Tell them:

* You are aware of the coming school property tax spike coming in 2012.

* You know about the project and bills to freeze school property tax for seniors.

* You support the tax freeze and encourage them to fund and pass tax freeze legislation **before** 2012.

Inform your neighbors, friends, relatives and anyone that pays school property tax in Pennsylvania.

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