



Twin Valley School District

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Twin Valley School District
"A Learning Community"

November 1, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Below is information we received from the Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators (PASA) regarding the November 7 ballot question on the Constitutional Amendment Referendum in Pennsylvania. The following are facts to consider about the amendment:

- It does **not** eliminate the school board's authority to assess real estate taxes.
- It allows for the homestead/farmstead maximum exclusion to go from 50% to 100%, but does **not** require that property taxes be eliminated.
- The state has provided only a small amount of funds annually through gaming money for the current homestead/farmstead exclusion. The state would have to find a **significant** revenue source to give to districts enough funds to even reach the 50% amount, let alone the 100%.
- It limits the exclusion to homestead/farmstead properties. Commercial real estate will **not** receive an exclusion and still would be **fully assessed** for property taxes.
- Separate legislation or funding would have to be passed that provides districts/counties with money to fund the full 100% exclusion. It would be a local decision by the local taxing authority to increase the homestead exemption up to 100%.
- The passage of this referendum will give legislators incentive to propose SB 76 type legislation that would eliminate property taxes. However, such legislation would actually override this amendment as it would replace local property taxes with the higher state PIT and SUT taxes, thereby eliminating local decision making.

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ACTUAL BALLOT QUESTION

Proposed Constitutional Amendment Amending the Homestead Property Tax Assessment Exclusion

Shall the Pennsylvania Constitution be amended to permit the General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing local taxing authorities to exclude from taxation up to 100 percent of the assessed value of each homestead property within a local taxing jurisdiction, rather than limit the exclusion to one-half of the median assessed value of all homestead property, which is the existing law?

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert F. Pleis
Superintendent