

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING LEGISLATION WHICH ELIMINATES SCHOOL PROPERTY TAXES
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 6, 2017
RESOLUTION # 43**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has previously considered legislation that would eliminate school property taxes (SB 76) and may currently be considering similar legislation; and

WHEREAS, eliminating school property taxes effectively removes the taxing authority of locally elected school boards and transfers local control over educational programs to the State; and

WHEREAS, the Big Spring School District's ability to levy and collect property taxes which provide 47% of the District's annual revenue budget, enables a consistent delivery of the educational program which would be severely disrupted if funds flow through the State; and

WHEREAS, with the elimination of Big Spring School District's ability to levy property taxes, the District's ability to satisfy any new State mandates, to enhance or expand educational and extracurricular activities, and to meet the needs of all students will be significantly impacted; and

WHEREAS, with the elimination of school property taxes, the funds needed to replace this revenue would come from an increase in the Personal Income Tax from 3.07% to 4.95% and an increase in the Sales/Use Tax from 6% to 7% with the loss of many exceptions to this tax such as food and clothing; and

WHEREAS, the decrease in income and sales tax collections during times of economic recession would produce a sudden revenue shortfall that would cause a significant negative impact to programs offered to students; and

WHEREAS, the additional proposal of curtailing school districts' ability to incur new debt would prohibit districts from responding to immediate needs for cash and would not allow local board decisions to fund maintenance and repairs of school facilities; and

WHEREAS, the elimination of school property tax would undo the State's recently enacted basic education funding formula before it has the chance to remedy the inequities it was designed to address.

WHEREAS, the tax reallocation to support the elimination of school property tax will result in Cumberland County taxpayers paying more than currently generated by school property taxes and this excess will support five counties in southeast Pennsylvania and Alleghany County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of the Big Spring School District calls upon the General Assembly to oppose any legislation that would eliminate or further restrict school property taxes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Spring School District calls upon the General Assembly to explore alternatives to school property tax elimination that provide property tax relief to Pennsylvania homeowners.

Adopted this 6th day of February, 2017.

Signed,

School Board President

Board Secretary (Seal)