

Act 1 not the answer; vote it down Tuesday

Last fall I volunteered to sit on my school district's Act 1 real estate tax reform committee in an effort to ease the burden on homeowners. State political leadership portrayed Act 1 as a tax reform, when in reality it is a tax shift.

If approved by voters on Tuesday, this act will shift some taxes from real estate to the earned income tax. While some may save a few dollars on their real estate taxes, many others will see their EIT increase such that their overall taxes will increase, not decrease.

Senior citizens without earned income and low-income families who own homes stand to gain. If you rent, regardless of your income level, you'll see your taxes increase.

Someone has to pay these taxes since Act 1 is revenue neutral; tax committees could not increase or decrease the amount of taxes collected by a school district. The way Act 1 was written, tax committees had two choices, raise the earned income tax or a personal income tax. Status quo to leave taxes as they are was not an option.

If state leaders truly want to provide tax relief for homeowners, they should use the 6 percent sales tax for school district support as the sales tax was originally designed.

Vote no on Act 1 on Tuesday.

Steve McKinney

Bushkill Township