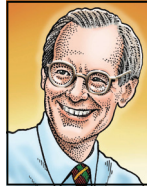


# POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

## No tax increase necessary

Why does Pottstown have the third highest taxes of Pennsylvania's 500 school districts?

Because for decades, the Pottstown School Board freely allowed our school administrators to increase spending without any regard for our community's ability to pay.



Commentary by  
Tom Hylton

Exorbitant taxation has deterred many prospective businesses and residents from moving into Pottstown.

It has driven existing property owners to either appeal their assessments or sell their properties and move out of town.

For 20 years, Pottstown's tax base has been steadily declining, and some neighborhoods show it.

Finally, in 2015, the school board stopped rubber-stamping tax increases. We've now had two years without a tax increase.

We cannot afford a tax increase this year, either.

We can tap some of our reserves this year to ease the transition from a district spending beyond its means to one that is sustainable.

It's always easier to spend money than be creative. But we must rethink how we do education in Pottstown.

*Tom Hylton is a member of the Pottstown School Board. However, the views expressed are his alone and not the board's.*

### PRELIMINARY 2017-2018 BUDGET

Description	
Teacher salary increases	(\$425,700)
Increased pension costs	(\$774,000)
Anticipated health insurance increase	(\$887,000)
Less income from taxation	(\$37,000)
Social Security	(\$33,000)
<b>Increased costs</b>	<b>(\$2,156,700)</b>
State pension reimbursement	\$387,000
State funding boost	\$235,292
Other income	\$16,500
<b>SHORTFALL</b>	<b>(\$1,517,908)</b>

### Pottstown School District year-end fund balance, tax increases

Year	End of year Reserves	Tax hike	Additional tax dollars raised over previous year
2007-2008	\$3,972,009	4.5%	\$1,071,956
2008-2009	\$3,365,560	6.1%	\$1,484,129
2009-2010	\$4,704,259	5.7%	\$1,394,292
2010-2011	\$7,203,047	4%	\$1,136,662
2011-2012	\$6,001,148	1.9%	\$537,710
2012-2013	\$6,438,752	1.2%	\$276,979
2013-2014	\$6,028,305	2.4%	\$678,251
2014-2015	\$6,433,796	2.9%	\$856,059
2015-2016	\$7,842,074	0%	\$(117,995)
2016-2017	\$7,293,759*	0%	

### Pottstown's Tax Base

Year	Total assessed
2006	\$834,827,477
2007	\$838,545,347
2008	\$829,017,802
2009	\$826,475,792
2010	\$817,728,017
2011	\$817,767,813
2012	\$812,279,226
2013	\$813,227,426
2014	\$813,390,719
2015	\$810,387,119
2016	\$805,577,279
2017	\$803,730,299

\*Projected