

Commissioners Ames & Phillips:

As members of the Lebanon County Republican Committee, we are writing today to express our strong opposition to the proposed 18% property tax increase you both voted in favor of publicly displaying at your December 2 Commissioners Meeting. Since its inception, the Republican Party has stood for fiscal discipline and lower taxes to promote economic opportunity. This founding principle has stood atop our great party's platform from the days of President Abraham Lincoln to President Donald Trump.

It cannot be ignored that the tax increase you are currently considering would be significantly magnified by the massive 32% tax hike you passed on Christmas Eve, 2016, thereby totaling a staggering 56% increase over the past five years should it pass. Over that same period, Lebanon County seniors living on a fixed income have seen only a 13% increase in their social security payments. Sadly, many of our "Greatest Generation" will be taxed out of their homes should this increase come to fruition.

At a time when Americans are struggling to cope with stifling inflation, across the board, due to overspending by President Biden and Democrats in Washington DC, it is simply unconscionable for our Republican County Commissioners to consider a double-digit property tax increase in Lebanon County. In fact, it was the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Wilson Regan, who stated, *"Simple fairness dictates that government must not raise taxes on families struggling to pay their bills."*

We respectfully ask that you explore every possible alternative to raising taxes again during this difficult time. Lebanon County has received tens of millions of dollars in federal coronavirus relief funding. Perhaps a better use of that money would be to balance the general fund budget rather than financing expensive new multi-million-dollar projects. Indeed, our neighbors in Dauphin County have not seen a tax increase in over fifteen years, thanks to the fiscal stewardship of their Republican County Commissioners, proving there is a responsible way forward.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of this critical request and look forward to your next Commissioners meeting on December 23. Thank you for your service to the people of Lebanon County.

Sincerely,

Dawn Blauch
William Dougherty
Jennifer Albright
Christopher Barry
Kermit Bell
Marion Bleistine

Shane Gingrich
Charles Greenawalt
Jan Griffe
Stephanie J. Grumbein
Tucker R. Hull
Linda Jackson

Richard Bleistine
Bonnie Bleistine
Richard Bleistine Jr.
Gwen L. Boyer
Matt Brouillette
Dana Rae Brouillette
Liberty Brouillette
Faith Bucks
Christy Clinger
Gregory Clinger
Jacquelyn Cluck
Dale C. Coleman
Keri DeMichiel
Serena S. Donmoyer
Todd D. Donmoyer
Zachary Donmoyer
William P. Eckenroth III
Tom Ferrari
Harry L. Fies
Ian Firestine
Robert Firestine
Lindsay Firestine
Pat Gahres
Maureen D. Gallo
Christi Gensler
Shawn Y. Gerhardt-Kreiser

Elizabeth Judd
Dorothy E. Keller
Kandice Kerwin Hull
Bill Kuhn
Casey Long
Anthony M. Magaro
Paul Matters Jr.
Tannon Miller
Larry P. Minnich
Joya Morrissey
Thomas Morrissey Jr.
Michael David Mumma
Ray S. Ondrusek
Sandra L. Paveglio
John W. Pellow
Jane Quairoli
Dawn Resanovich
Constantino Scaros
Jim Schaeffer
Paul W. Schmidt
Eric Sevco
Christine Thomas
Sally Thompson
Eric Walter
Michelle Whitman
Steven Michael Wolfe
Brian Ziegler