

081724 Letter to the OR Editor

Once again Washington County released their notice of properties for delinquent taxes. 30 pages of property listings and this is just Washington County. Are the property owners widowed or seniors? Does anyone care? I do! Our elected officials don't seem to care about us losing our homes over a tax we can no longer afford to pay. What happened to property tax reform? My opinion, it was just a campaign promise to get elected but would never be fulfilled. I have written letters to Bartolotta and Ortitay. I even put together a presentation of why we need property tax reform and met with Ortitay back in May 2023. I got the impression that he didn't care about what I had to say. I have written to both Bartolotta and Ortitay since then but never received a response back. I wrote to Governor Shapiro in July 2023. You can read my letter to him on the home page of my website www.emailstoheaven.org. I have written another letter to him since then but never received a response to either of my letters. Within my nonprofit I am trying to make a change for our widowed neighbors and my biggest issue is school property taxes. Ortitay and Shapiro talked about the increase in the property tax/rent rebate program and how it was going to make Pennsylvania a better place to live. Most of us got \$130 out of the \$350 increase. But Canon Mac raised the school taxes "again" and the \$130 doesn't even cover the increase we now have to pay. Our elected officials need to start thinking outside the box on funding Pennsylvania schools because property taxes isn't the answer. This expense is too much for property owners to handle alone and no one should have to lose their home, especially for those of us who receive "no service" for this tax. Think about this the next time you vote. These 3 have done nothing to help our widowed property owners or seniors with this tax burden. AARP wrote an article on homelessness growing among older Americans starting now at age 55 with a dramatic increase where they will be unable to secure housing over the coming decade. I guess Bartolotta, Ortitay and Shapiro would rather see us homeless than to find a solution to this tax problem. Shame on them!



Cheryl Bertolino
80 Profio Road
McDonald, PA 15057
724-926-3848