



Press release

For immediate release

S.T.O.P. Petition Signatures Surpass 100,000.
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What began in January, 2002 as a small, regional, grass roots movement, has mushroomed into a growing taxpayer revolt that is spreading into other areas of Pennsylvania. One-hundred-thousand (100,000) signatures have now been collected demanding the abolishment of all property taxes on homesteads and farmsteads throughout Pennsylvania.

Additionally, the S.T.O.P. (Stop Taxing Our Properties) property tax abolishment legislation SB 717-718 and HB 1572 and 1573 now have 53 legislators as co-sponsors; eleven Senators and Forty-two Representatives from both major political parties. Copies of the legislation can be found at www.grandoldusa.com

S.T.O.P. supporters believe it is time for the Governor and Legislative Leadership to stop ignoring the more than 100,000 Pennsylvania citizens who demand abolishment of all property taxes on homesteads and farmsteads, not a meaningless reduction on just one of the taxes.

S.T.O.P. (Stop Taxing Our Properties) has developed a sensible plan to:

* **ABOLISH** the hated property taxes and replace them with taxes that spread the burden based on one's ability to pay—which is NOT true of the property taxes.

* **Stop** the invasion of privacy by assessors.

* **Stop** tax increases when owners improve their homes.

* **Stop** sheriff sales for back taxes, a cruel practice that is often based on faulty assessment numbers. Sheriff sales confiscate a person or family's home; most or all of their equity; and seriously damages their credit.

* **Cut** the size of government, because assessment offices, sheriff's offices and court costs can be diminished in every county once 3/4ths to 4/5ths of properties would no longer be assessed and reassessed.

* **Reverse** the out-migration of Pennsylvanians, especially young people and retirees.

* **Create** thousands of jobs and increase business in home building, remodeling, banking, building supplies and materials, and other related fields.

* **Revitalize** our cities, neighborhoods and towns. Since buying and improving existing homes would NOT result in higher property taxes, individuals and families would have the incentive to move into our older neighborhoods.

* **With** an emergency declaration, the constitutional change could be done in 2004. And Pennsylvania can immediately begin to grow and prosper again. (End)