

County of Butler Board of Commissioners

124 W. Diamond Street, PO Box 1208, Butler, PA 16003-1208
Phone 724.284.5100 Fax 724.284.5400 TDD 724.284.5473

Commissioners

Leslie A. Osche, **Chairman**
Kimberly D. Geyer, **Vice Chairman**
Kevin E. Boozel, **Secretary**



Dir. of Adm. /Chief Clerk

Gerald S. Patterson, Jr.

Solicitor

Michael K. English

WHY DID MY TAXES GO UP?

TALKING POINTS FOR BUTLER COUNTY

- The prior board of commissioners presented a budget in December that called for a 3 mil tax increase.
- For the last eight years, tax revenue did not keep pace with expense. In order to avoid annual increases over the last several years, the County exhausted cash reserves resulting in the current increase.

WHY AM I PAYING A TAX FOR THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE?

- Most of the 3 mil increase was assigned to the Butler County Community College which is why you see that as special millage on your tax bill.
- The Community College Act of 1963 passed by the state calls for local sponsorship and Butler County pledged that sponsorship to BC3 in 1965.
- Butler County has always contributed to BC3. The total contribution of \$4.9 million didn't change, it is simply shown as special millage on your tax bill. It allows the County to offset other operating costs.
- The contribution provides residents with the opportunity to get an education at low tuition rates with 70% graduating debt free. Many residents who lost their jobs in the economic downturn returned to Community College for retraining.
- As a result, our employers and businesses use the college for training and have a skilled workforce.
- And all of our County fire departments have access to a state-of-the art training facility.
- Butler County Community College is ranked #1 in Pennsylvania among Community Colleges.

THE COLLEGE HAS CAMPUSES IN OTHER COUNTIES. I SHOULDN'T PAY FOR THEM.

- You aren't paying for them. There are only 14 Community Colleges in the Commonwealth. The state legislature worked with community colleges to expand service to more rural, underserved Counties. Students pay twice the tuition rate of Butler County's students to cover the cost of those facilities.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT BOARD DOING TO CONTROL COSTS AND AVOID FUTURE INCREASES?

- The good news is that the debt service millage decreased.
- The board is working with County row offices and department leaders to cut expenses by \$3 to 5 million.
- They will also look at collections and municipal procedures for filing building permits, etc.

WHAT IF I REFUSE TO PAY THE COLLEGE TAX?

- Your property will be sent to Tax Claim where a lien will be placed against it.

WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY THE TAX?

- We recommend that you call **2-1-1**. a free hotline that may be able to refer you for assistance with utilities or other services so that you may save in other areas, or where you can schedule an appointment to have income taxes prepared for free through the local AARP or VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program. Even if you don't file income tax, you may be eligible for credits or rebates like Property Tax/Rent Rebate program which free tax preparers can assist with. Just dial 2-1-1 to schedule an appointment.