

UNIONVILLE-CHADDS FORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

TAX STUDY COMMISSION REQUIRED SPECIAL SESSION ACT 1 OF 2006 LOCAL TAX REFORM

The Taxpayer Relief Act was approved and signed into law on June 27, 2006 by Governor Rendell. The law requires that the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board appoint a Tax Study Commission by September 14, 2006 of taxpayers and/or resident individuals who reflect the socioeconomic, age, and occupational diversity of our district. For example, representation on the Commission might include a homeowner who works in Delaware; a homeowner who works in Philadelphia; a working renter; a low, middle, and high income homeowner; a commercial, small, and large business property owner; a retiree homeowner; and a homeowner whose income is mostly from investments.

The Commission will consist of five, seven, or nine members, as determined by the School Board. The Commission members may include one school board member, but may not include a district official or employee or relative of a district official or employee.

Under the law, the school board must present at the May 2007 primary election a “front-end” referendum question regarding the institution of an earned income tax (EIT) or a personal income tax (PIT) to fund homestead and farmstead property tax reductions. By December 13, 2006, the appointed Commissioners must submit to the Unionville-Chadds Ford School Board the EIT or PIT rate that they recommend for inclusion in the May 2007 front-end referendum question.

To guide the Commission in making its EIT or PIT rate recommendation to the Board, the act requires the study of: (1) historic and current revenue from current district taxes; (2) the percentage of total district revenue provided by current taxes; (3) the age, income, employment, and property characteristics of the existing tax base; and (4) projected district revenue from current taxes, and from the possible new Act 1 EIT or PIT.

All Commission meetings must be advertised and open to the public in accordance with the Sunshine Law. The Commission must vote in public and meeting minutes must be kept.

District residents who are interested in serving on the Tax Study Commission should submit a letter of interest, a Commission application (available in the District Office, the office in each school building, and at www.ucfsd.org), and a biographical sketch that includes socioeconomic, age and occupational information to assist the School Board in selecting individuals to serve on the Commission who represent a diverse cross section of the School District as required by the Act. The required information above should be sent to Kathy Brown; School Board Secretary for the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District; 740 Unionville Road; Kennett Square, PA 19348. All information from Commission applicants must be received by 4:00 pm on September 1, 2006. Members of the Tax Study Commission will be appointed at the Board work session to be held on September 11, 2006; at 7:00 pm in the District Office located at 740 Unionville Road, Kennett Square, PA